

Judge upholds press freedom over spy book

Blow to Government on permanent ban

● Newspapers have a legitimate role in exposing wrongdoing, a judge ruled in the *Spycatcher* case. He dismissed a government plea for a permanent ban

● The legal adviser to *The Sunday Times* welcomed the judge's "pragmatic and sensible approach" and said the public has everything to gain (Page 2)

● In the spy book Peter Wright had alleged there was a plot in Britain to assassinate President Nasser of Egypt at the height of the Suez crisis

● The role of Sir Robert Armstrong, Cabinet Secretary, and the secrets denied to him remain at the heart of the Government's tactics (page 2)

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The British media won the right yesterday to publish allegations from *Spycatcher*, the memoirs of Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer, when a High Court judge refused to grant the Government a permanent ban.

Mr Justice Scott, in one of the strongest condemnations of the Government's case yet made by the courts, said the press had a "legitimate and important role" in disclosing allegations of wrongdoing.

"The ability of the press to report allegations of wrongdoing in government is one of the bulwarks of our democratic society," he said.

"It could not happen in totalitarian countries. If the price that has to be paid is the exposure of the government of the day to pressure and embarrassment when mischievous and false allegations are made, then, in my opinion, that price must be paid."

The judge, who cleared *The Guardian* and *The Observer* of any breach of duty in publishing *Spycatcher* material in June and July 1986, at the same time criticized the Government over the reasons for its action against the newspapers.

This was taken while allowing the same allegations to appear in nine other publications, he said. The Government's reasons were "shallow and unconvincing."

He also criticized the "absolute" stance of the Government's chief witness, Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary.

Sir Robert's case, that disclosure of information about the security services by an insider such as Mr Wright was never justified, was unacceptable, the judge said.

That absolute protection of the security services "could not be achieved this side of the Iron Curtain."

Despite the ruling, the press is for the moment still barred from publishing or serializing *Spycatcher* material. Mr Justice Scott agreed the temporary bans should remain in force until the hearing of the Government's appeal, fixed for January 18.

But it was nonetheless immediately hailed by editors as a "resounding victory for press freedom". Mr Donald Treford, editor of *The Observer*, which was contesting the ban with *The Guardian* and *The Sunday Times*, said the judge's ruling was a "very important and much overdue statement from the judiciary."

This was particularly welcome at a time when the press was under a lot of legal pressure. "We feel totally vindicated," he said.

In condemning the Government the judge criticized particularly its failure to take action in copyright against *The Sunday Times*, which he held had been in breach of duty publication of an extract of the book, the first of a planned series.

If it had done so, *The Sunday Times* could have been stopped from publication, he said. But as it was, the newspaper was in the same position as the others.

He said therefore, in the one concession to the Government's case, that the Attorney General was entitled to its claim for "an account of profits" from the newspaper, based on any profit made from the boosted circulation it enjoyed from publishing the extract.

The Guardian and *The Observer* were awarded their costs, estimated at £100,000; but *The Sunday Times* was ordered to pay a quarter of the Attorney General's costs.

The judge based his ruling on the view that the case between the editors and Sir Robert amounted to a "clash of rival philosophies": the protection of the security services against the freedom of speech or freedom of the press.

Despite Sir Robert's view that no freedom of speech or publication should be permitted to allow disclosure of security service material by an insider, the courts had to strike a balance between the two competing interests.

It was equally unacceptable, as Mr Treford had suggested, that prior restraints should not be placed on newspapers. "pressing it was 'unacceptable that newspapers and their editors should be judges in their own cause of the restraints on freedom of the press that the national security may require'."

"It is equally unacceptable that the Government's assertion of what national security requires should suffice to decide the limitations that must be imposed on freedom of speech or of the press."

Throughout, the judge made clear that Mr Wright had committed a "flagrant breach of confidence" and that if he was sued in this country, permanent bans would be granted against him.

The Attorney General was entitled to an injunction against Mr Wright or any agent of his to restrain publication of *Spycatcher* in this country, he said.

Dismissing most of the Government's arguments, the judge said that what damage had been caused was already done. That applied to the loss of confidence in the security services by friendly countries and informers.

Wright's book tells of a plot to kill Nasser

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The central allegations by Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer, in his book *Spycatcher* are so serious that the press is justified in putting them into the public domain, Mr Justice Scott said yesterday.

"A situation in which those allegations were being placed before the citizens of virtually every country in the world but could not be placed before the citizens of this country would, in my view, be additionally objectionable."

In particular, he said Mr Wright's allegation that a plot

to assassinate President Nasser was hatched and was being seriously considered by those in authority was "an allegation of iniquity of a high order."

Mr Justice Scott said: "It would have been a monstrous thing and a stain on this country's honour if such a plot had been put into execution."

The judge said he hoped the allegation was untrue. But whether true or not, the Government could not argue that a duty of confidence could be used to prevent the

Lord King triumphant in B-Cal takeover battle



Victorious Lord King, the British Airways chairman, in his office last night.

BA raises bid to gain control of rival airline

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British Airways last night won the battle for British Caledonian with a £250 million offer which knocked out its Scandinavian opponent.

The final bid was £13 million above that originally put forward in July and more than double the revised cash offer made last month after the stock market crash.

It proved far too much for Scandinavian Airlines System which was talking to the B-Cal board about its own final proposals when the announcement was made.

It immediately withdrew from all negotiations and British Airways bought the majority of the shares to give it control of the Gatwick-based airline.

A BA team will help to merge the two operations and cut up to 2,000 jobs.

Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of B-Cal, said his board had "no hesitation" in recommending the BA offer.

It was, in many ways, a triumph for the 61-year-old Scot who founded the airline 26 years ago and who was offered only £36 million for the entire company by Air Europe last year.

When a proposed link with SAS met fierce political opposition, Lord King of Warrnaby, BA chairman, was forced to increase the cash price he was prepared to pay, first to £200 million and finally to £250 million.

Each of the shares in B-Cal will be sold for £12.15, giving investors in industry, which holds 41 per cent of the equity, more than £100 million.

The deal was finally clinched after both sides put separate deadlines on the negotiations which appeared likely to drag on for months.

First 31 said it must have any new bids by 12 noon yesterday. Then BA put in its

offer and said it would leave it "on the table" for just three hours.

At the last moment SAS withdrew and BA immediately acquired all 31 shares and those held by the B-Cal directors.

Lord King said: "We decided in the interests of both companies to make this final offer."

"The £119 million offer we made in cash a month ago was when the world looked different from the way it looks today."

The future of Sir Adam will be discussed today when Sir

Lift-off?.....8

Colin Marshall, BA chief executive, meets the staff and directors at Gatwick.

The SAS negotiating team wearily returned home after a battle which left it bewildered at the complexity of the British political scene and stunned by the aggressive tactics of BA.

Sir Adam said: "In accepting and recommending the sale of B-Cal to BA we have taken full note of Lord King's assurance in respect of B-Cal staff. We are assured that staff rationalization should be achieved by voluntary severance and natural wastage."

City analysts last night welcomed the deal. However they pointed out that after months of arguing and with a rival bid from SAS complicating the issue, B-Cal has effectively forced BA to pay more than its original bid.

The improved offer of £12.15 per B-Cal share should pay for itself in four years, assuming that British Airways can squeeze costs and achieve savings, analysts believe. They remain generally positive about BA, whose shares rose by 4p to 164p.

1,500 feared dead after Philippines ferry sinks

From Humphrey Hawksley, Manila

Rescue teams resumed their search this morning for survivors from the sinking of an overcrowded ferry off the Philippines in one of the world's worst peacetime maritime disasters this century.

Late last night, officials feared that nearly all those on board — officially at least 1,500 passengers and crew although some claim as many as 3,000 — may have died. This would surpass the toll of the legendary Titanic disaster, in which 1,503 died on the ship's maiden voyage in 1912 after it hit an iceberg.

Yesterday, after an extensive daylight rescue effort in the area of the disaster, 100 miles south of Manila, by ship, helicopter and plane, fewer than 30 survivors had been found, mainly in the few hours after the vessel went down after colliding with a tanker. Most were suffering from burns after jumping into oil that caught fire in the collision and formed a slick over the sea.

The 20-year-old ferry, the Dona Paz, collided with the tanker Victor in straits off the island of Marinduque. She had been sailing for Manila, and was due there early yesterday morning after leaving the port of Tacloban in the central island of Leyte.

There has been no official explanation of how the accident happened. Weather conditions were good, but it was a particularly dark, moonless night. A spokesman for President Aquino said she was "saddened and shocked" by the disaster.

The official count of those on board the tanker or ferry was 1,556 passengers and crew, but survivors said the ferry being overcrowded because of the Christmas holiday. The decks and compartments were reported to be packed with people, luggage and animals. Mr Mabag Constanicio, who was travelling with 11 other members of his family, said: "People were

sitting on the floor. No one could move around."

No detailed passenger list is likely to be available. Most of those on board were provincial peasant farmers and their families, who would not have registered with the ferry line. Shipping regulations are often ignored on the busy inter-island routes around the Philippines, especially during the Christmas period when demand for spaces is high.

Mr Paquito Osabel, aged 42, said: "I was sleeping when I heard an explosion. I looked out and saw another ship was on fire. In just two seconds, there was a big fire on our ship and I heard everybody screaming and wailing. I jumped and dived into the water."

Mr Osabel said he clung onto a plank and swam for more than an hour before being picked up by another ship. Another passenger, Mr Samuel Carillo, said he had been talking to the captain

Continued on page 16, col 3

Leak costs BBC man his post

By Alan Hamilton

Mr Michael Cole, the television reporter identified as the source of the leak on the contents of the Queen's Christmas broadcast, has lost his job as the BBC's current correspondent. He will be moved to other duties in the BBC newsroom.

After an internal inquiry yesterday, the BBC apologized for the breach of the embargo on the Queen's message, details of which appeared in several newspapers on Saturday after Mr Cole had met other reporters at a supposedly off-the-record lunch.

Mr Ron Neil, deputy director of news and current affairs at BBC Television, said: "This has been a most unfortunate event."

Mr Cole declined to comment last night, but BBC colleagues said that he had offered his resignation as soon as he knew that the stories would appear.

Arabs in silent protest strike

From Ian Murray, Taiyiba, Israel

For just one short minute here yesterday there was quiet. In common with the rest of the Arab areas of Israel, as well as the occupied territories, Palestinians stood in silence in memory of those who have died from Israeli bullets in the refugee camps and towns over the past two weeks. It was the biggest-ever display of solidarity between all the Arabs under Israeli rule and occupation.

Before and after the silence the crowd of men, youths and boys seethed in the narrow square before the mosque. The shops were shut, the schools were closed and it seemed as if every male had gone out into the streets waiting for trouble.

Here, as in so many places, there was trouble although it was very limited. The deadliest incident yesterday was at the remote village of Tubas, north of Nablus, in the West Bank. A demonstration

started after the noon silence and prayers, stones and petrol-bombs were thrown, an Israeli soldier was hurt and troops opened fire.

Palestinian sources claim that the one demonstrator who died was hit by four bullets fired from a helicopter and that four others were wounded at the same time.

Almost inevitably, however, the Gaza Strip saw the biggest demonstration, with 2,000 actually attacking a military post in the Jabliya Camp before being driven back, leaving five wounded and a woman so badly beaten that she had to be taken to hospital.

A total of four gunshot casualties was also reported from two other villages near Nablus and a 17-year-old girl was wounded in the leg after stone-throwing incidents at Deheish Camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem, where the

Continued on page 16, col 8

Post Office pegs stamp prices as profits double

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

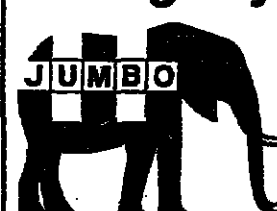
The Post Office doubled its half-year profit to £46 million compared with a year earlier, the corporation announced yesterday, and promised that there would be no increase in the price of a stamp before next April.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the new chairman, said the new agreement with the Union of Communication Workers, which prevented a Christmas postal strike, would result in a better and efficient service.

For the year as a whole, profits are expected to remain at about last year's level of £170 million because of increased costs in providing extra staff and transport to cope with the expected 6.5 per cent increase in the volume of mail.

Girobank, a prime privatization candidate, saw its half-year income rise to £172 million from £163 million in the previous half-year, while profits remained at £7 million. Interims doubled, page 17

A winning Times on Boxing Day



The only quality newspaper publishing on Boxing Day will be a prize issue: £50 for each of five winners of the Jumbo Crossword and a case of champagne for each of six Quiz of the Year winners. Plus the New Year radio and television highlights and sports coverage which includes the eight Boxing Day racecards. Use the form on page 31 today to order your Times

IN PART 2

Snow reports

The Times begins its Snow Reports service today, giving the condition of pistes at Europe's most popular ski resorts. Page 29

Portfolio

● Two readers shared yesterday's £4,000 daily prize in the Times Portfolio Gold competition. Details, page 3. ● Portfolio list, page 21.

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Judge rules Sunday trading 'motoring spares' ruse illegal

By Robin Young

Do-it-yourself stores cannot sell roofing felt, watering cans, timber or house paint on Sundays under the pretence that they are motor accessories, the High Court in London ruled yesterday.

Retailers are likely to face more prosecutions for illegal Sunday trading as a result. Mr Justice Mann, giving the court's reserved judgement in cases against Texas Home-care, Wickes Building Supplies, RMC Homecare (South), W H Smith Do-It-All and Paul Madeley Ltd, said magistrates in many parts of the country had been coming to "perverse decisions" that a wide range of articles could be construed as motor accessories, which are allowed to be sold on Sundays under the 1950 Shops Act.

"A woman's stocking can be used as a motor accessory as it can serve as a fan belt", the judge said. "But no one using language with its ordinary and natural meaning would regard a hosiery counter as selling motor accessories."

He said that the stores had, between them, sold abrasive pads, brush cleaners, ceramic

tiles, creosote, curtain railing, emulsion paint, electrical cable and boxes, fluorescent tubes, gloss paint, laminated wood, paint brushes, plasterboard, plumbing fittings, radiators and fittings, roofing felt, timber, tiles, wallpaper, watering cans, white spirit and varnish.

The "astonishing" argument had been advanced that these were motor accessories because they could be used to repair motorized caravans.

Mr Justice Mann said that in most cases magistrates needed "only a knowledge of our language" to settle the issue. They might have doubt about some items, such as a chamois leather or a torch, but in those cases only could they give the benefit of doubt to the stores. Justices must ask themselves whether, in the ordinary and natural use of language, an item is capable of being described as a motor supply or accessory.

Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Mann sent cases against Texas, Wickes, RMC and W H Smith Do-It-All back to local magistrates with directions to convict for illegal

Sunday trading. Paul Madeley's appeal against a conviction obtained by Leeds City Council was dismissed.

Mr David Tench, the legal officer of Consumers' Association, said that he was not surprised by the decision. "Most attempts to get around the ludicrous provisions of the Shops Act fail in the courts", he said. "Only Parliament can put it right, and it is high time that they did so."

A Government Bill to liberalize Sunday trading was defeated in the House of Commons in April 1986 when Conservatives supporting the Keep Sunday Special campaign joined Labour members supporting the shop workers' union, USDAW, in opposing Sunday opening.

Do-it-yourself retailers, heavily dependent on weekend shopping, had been in the vanguard of the campaign for Sunday opening, but are now liable to face more successful prosecutions. The vigour with which they will be pursued, however, will continue to depend on the attitude of local councils, many of which are reluctant to prosecute.

Test tube triplets are full of festive fun



In the mood for Christmas are Patrick Mammone (left) his sister, Katherine, and his brother, Christopher, who were born after their parents, Mr Brian Mammone and his wife, Christine, of St Leonards, East Sussex, received fertility treatment from a team at the Humana Hospital Wellington, St John's Wood, north-west London. Mrs Mammone, aged 35, had hoped for eight years to start a family (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Currys face trademark case

Currys, the high street electrical retail group, was taken to court yesterday by council watchdogs who say names on products they sell are Japanese-sounding and breach the Trade Description Act.

Currys denied applying a false trade description to its British, Yugoslavian and Korean goods by giving them the name "Matsui" and a symbol resembling the rising sun. The prosecution was brought by Oxford Trading Standards Department. The company denies 12 charges of applying a false trade description to its goods.

Mr Simon Readhead, for the prosecution, told Oxford

magistrates that the name "Matsui", the symbol of a red circle and two horizontal white lines and the slogan, "Japanese Technology Made Perfect", suggested the goods were made in Japan.

In fact, the items, including refrigerators, chest freezers, video recorders, colour televisions and microwave ovens, were made in Yugoslavia, Britain, Italy, Korea and Singapore.

Mr Richard Spearman, for Currys, denied that it had been suggested the goods were made in Japan, even though "Matsui" was a common Japanese surname.

Mr Richard Abbott, a trade-

marks expert, told the court: "It would not be a disadvantage to any company to attach to itself a Japanese ethos. However, I very much doubt that the average man walking into Currys would know that 'Matsui' was a Japanese surname."

Mr Nicholas Lightowler, purchasing director for Currys and Dixon's, said that some Matsui goods were originally made in Japan, though none was made there now.

Asked by Mr Spearman why the name "Matsui" had been chosen, Mr Lightowler said: "It was very, very easy to say and it seemed to have a quality ring about it."

Young face high risk on roads

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Research showing the high risk of death or serious injury to motorists and motorcyclists aged 17 to 25 was accompanied yesterday by a renewed message not to drink and drive.

The warning came in findings by 50 international research teams, from Europe, the United States and Australia, published in a report, *Young Drivers Impaired by Alcohol and Other Drugs*.

Dr John Harvard, secretary of the British Medical Association, said the results reinforced demands for random breath testing.

He said they underlined evidence that young drivers were at high risk of accidents on public holidays and between 10pm to 4am. Nearly 30 per cent of car accidents and more than 70 per cent of motorcycle accidents occurred in the under-25 age group.

A study in the report from the Transport and Road Research Laboratory showed that more than 40 per cent of car drivers and more than 70 per cent of motorcyclists who were treated for accidents and who failed the breath test were aged under 25.

Young Drivers Impaired by Alcohol and Other Drugs (Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE, £10).

Many Christmas and New Year revellers will die as a result of alcohol abuse, a consultant surgeon said yesterday.

Mr James Wardrope, consultant in charge of the accident and emergency unit at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, has cancelled all holidays for his team of 30 during the Christmas period.

Coroner halts inquest

Coffee break 'led to death'

By Ruth Gledhill

A coroner halted an inquest yesterday after it was claimed that a hospital patient suffered brain damage and later died after an anaesthetist left the operating table for a cup of coffee.

Mr Anthony Glass, the Croydon coroner, directed that the inquest papers be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service.

He had been told that Mr Alan Loveland, aged 34, a father of two, from Beckenham, Kent, turned blue and suffered serious brain damage during the routine cornea graft operation at the Mayday Hospital, Croydon, south London, after an oxygen pipe became detached. He died seven months later.

The jury of four men and four women were hearing evidence from Professor James Payne, of London University, when the coroner invoked Section 28 of the Coroners' Rules.

Under Section 28, a coroner can stop an inquest if it is

apparent that charges could result from evidence or that an offence could be proved.

The anaesthetist, Dr John Adomako, who was born in Africa and trained in Russia, denied that he had left the operating theatre. He said he had taken over from another anaesthetist, Dr Ahmed Said, who was called away to an emergency childbirth.

"I did not leave the theatre to make coffee. I never leave the theatre during an operation. I do not consider going for coffee to be right", he said.

Dr Said said that on his way to the next operation he made himself a cup of coffee in the kitchen. While he was there, Dr Adomako arrived in the kitchen to make himself a cup of coffee.

"I did not ask him why he came into the kitchen. He was an experienced anaesthetist. I thought he would have made his own arrangements in the theatre", he said.

The coroner was told that an internal hospital inquiry

into the death had not been told of the alleged coffee break. Dr Said said: "I was not asked about it. Because I was not asked, I did not mention it."

The surgeon, Mr Michael O'Riordan, a consultant who performed the operation on January 4 this year, said that he did not see the changeover between the two anaesthetists. "At the end I was not aware that it was not the same anaesthetist who started the operation."

Professor Payne said: "It was poor practice to change anaesthetists without telling the surgeon."

Professor Payne said the oxygen pipe had been disconnected for five minutes before the automatic emergency alarm bells rang.

"It is the anaesthetist's responsibility to look for this. What happened was inevitable."

The coroner formally adjourned the hearing for 56 days.

Managers 'harass the most'

By John Spicer

Company managers and supervisors are most guilty of sexual harassment of female staff at work, according to a survey by the Labour Research Department, a research organization funded by trade unions.

The findings are at odds with a recent in-depth survey of all the main members of the EEC, which found that work colleagues are mostly to blame.

The latest survey found that just under one-fifth of complaints were directed at colleagues. That caused problems for unions when the alleged harasser was also a union member, the report says.

Last week Mr Michael Rubenstein, editor of *Equal Opportunities Review*, presented the findings of a year-long study to the EEC, with a request for action to protect women from sexual harassment at work.

The European Commission had ordered the survey to be done and the findings are under consideration.

He said: "Nearly everywhere, it was found that most sexual harassment is carried out by colleagues at work. It might be that this latest research only looked at a small sample."

The Labour Research Department based its findings on the replies from 157 private, public and voluntary sector workplaces, employing a total of more than 46,000 people. The results are published in this month's *Bargaining Report* magazine.

It found that seven out of 10 of the workplaces reported some form of sexual harassment of staff, with nearly half the complainants accusing an immediate supervisor or member of management for making unwelcome advances.

The survey reports: "Particularly worrying is the unexpectedly high level of reports indicating physical assault."

One in 10 women reported actual physical abuse.

House price rises slowing in South

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The property market has remained stable since the stock market crash, although there has been a marked slowing down in the South-east, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says in its house price survey today.

Mr Peter Miller, RICS spokesman, reports that in the South-east both vendors and purchasers are taking stock and looking cautiously towards the new year. "Asking prices appear now more closely to reflect true values."

Nationally, the outlook was bright, with interest rates on the way down, he said. Of the 209 estate agents in the survey, half reported increases of 2 per cent in house prices in the quarter to the end of November, while 21 per cent showed increases of 5 per cent, 23 per cent no change, and 0.5 per cent a decrease.

From Crowborough, in East Sussex, the agents, St John Vaughan, reported: "Sales at

the top end of the market have been falling through. Most of the excuses were due to storm damage, but lack of confidence in the financial world is also a likely factor."

In contrast, the past three months have been good for the north of England, where nearly 60 per cent of agents report price increases of 2 per cent.

Two council housing blocks in the London borough of Brent have been converted into flats for homeless families.

The scheme, officially opened yesterday, cost £1.9 million to refurbish the blocks, built in the 1930s, as 112 self-contained flats with a launderette and community centre, as well as a security guard on duty 24 hours a day.

Brent council, which has more than 1,650 homeless people, says that the scheme, at Donnington Court, is a real alternative to bed and breakfast accommodation.

Boycott of oil company is ruled illegal

A Labour council's ban on using Shell products because of the oil company's South African trade was ruled unlawful by the High Court.

Two judges said Lewisham council in south-east London acted unfairly in deciding to boycott products from the Anglo-Dutch group in an attempt to force it to withdraw from South Africa.

Lord Justice Neill, sitting with Mr Justice Taylor, said that the wish to force Shell to change its policy exerted a "very substantial" influence on the council decision.

That was an "impermissible" purpose which required the court to intervene. The council agreed to abide by the order.

The judges also ruled unlawful a campaign by Lewisham to persuade other councils to join the boycott.

London police on the beat may have older look

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard may recruit a special corps of mature police officers to increase the police presence on London's streets.

The corps, on short term contracts from five to 20 years, would be drawn mainly from people aged between 30 and 40 years. Yard commanders believe they could provide the sort of worldly experience and ability to communicate with people that many young officers lack.

The idea of forming a corps of older officers is being studied by the Yard's personnel and training department under Mr Colin Sutton, an assistant commissioner. Any decision to go ahead with a scheme was said yesterday to be at least two years away.

Mr Sutton said: "We are looking for fit, mature, stable and sensitive officers and the older ones are generally those blessed with these attributes". He denied any suggestion that it would be a second-class group of officers.

Almost 1,000 of 6,600 West Midlands police officers have been assaulted on duty this year, according to figures released yesterday.

At a time when police commanders from a number of forces have given warnings of the increasing physical risk of policing the West Midlands, the figures show that 968 officers were attacked and 362 received medical treatment.

Mr Leslie Sharp, deputy chief constable, said the figures were "quite horrendous" and could be attributed to

Mature officers would be offered a choice of contracts and could eventually opt to join the rest of the police force. The length of training, terms of service and number of men that might be recruited have not yet been debated, but the officers would be fully attested police constables.

They would be used mainly for street patrols but could also do detective work. Pay would be that of an experienced constable which is now £14,000 a year.

London police recruit largely between the ages of 18 and 26, although

antipathy to authority. More than 260 police vehicles had been damaged.

Mr Geoffrey Dear, Chief Constable for the West Midlands, said that although reported crime in the region to the end of last month had increased by 2 per cent, the detection rate had risen from 28 per cent to 34 per cent.

All 32 murders in the region this year had been solved.

Mr Roy Penrose, aged 45, the detective chief superintendent in charge of the central drugs squad, has been appointed commander of Scotland Yard's serious crime squad.

Candidates up to 40 or older are accepted. Police can retire with pension rights after 25 years service and many officers usually end their service in their early or mid 50s.

The London force is several thousand men below strength in spite of an increase in the establishment in the new year. The scheme would allow it to tap a growing reservoir of unemployed manpower at a time when the number of potential young recruits is diminishing as a result of the falling birth rate.

The corps might attract immigrant recruits and compensate for the fact that many young blacks shun a police career. The use of older officers in tense areas such as Brixton is rated a success by the Yard.

At present, more than 60 per cent of London police recruits come from outside London and many eventually transfer to their home forces. The corps is more likely to attract Londoners who would not move in the same way.

But the idea may well find opposition within the police themselves. A senior official of the Police Federation yesterday suggested that the Yard should make better use of the long service officers they already have.

Michael Bennett, chairman of the London branch, said many officers with 20 years' service were demoralized by reorganization, rumour about their future and legal changes.

He said: "We have got a lot of policemen of that age group and experience who want nothing more than to help the general public, doing exactly what these people are being recruited for."

Portfolio - Gold - Computer indicates £2,000 win

The Times Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000 is shared by Mr Douglas Craik, of Meadow Court, Whiteparish, Wiltshire, and Mr Robin Greenstreet, of Stepney Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Mr Craik, aged 50, is a chartered accountant. He has been reading *The Times* for 30 years and has programmed his personal computer with his



Mr Douglas Craik: numbers checked on his computer.

Portfolio numbers to check them at the press of a button. He has recently bought another computer and the win will pay for it.

Mr Greenstreet, a Civil Servant in his fifties, rises "at the crack of dawn" to buy *The Times* and check his Portfolio numbers at breakfast.

He and his wife Sheila have four grown-up children and Mr Greenstreet will spend his prize on "entertaining them for Christmas".

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold.

The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Families enjoy reunion party

Parents of 100 children involved in the Cleveland sexual abuse crisis celebrated their reunion with their children at a Christmas party in Middlesbrough yesterday.

Mr Stuart Bell, MP for Middlesbrough, who championed the cause of parents involved in the controversy, helped to organize the event paid for by a restaurateur.

Christmas bail

A man arrested after he threw an envelope at the Prince and Princess of Wales was released on bail yesterday to spend Christmas with his family. Derek Simpson, aged 42, of Homslow, west London, found guilty of obstructing a policeman and using threatening behaviour, was remanded until January 18 for probation reports by Horseferry Road magistrates.

Museum seeks £7.2m to save Poussin painting

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

The race appears to be on to save Poussin's "The Finding of Moses", a painting valued at £7.2 million and the subject of a government export embargo until May.

After some gentlemanly shuffling by two candidates, the National Gallery and the National Museum of Wales, the former has deferred to the latter, provided it can raise the necessary cash. The deadline for a public gallery to state its

interest in the painting was yesterday.

Mr Neil McGregor, director of the National Gallery, said: "Both museums believe this is a great picture and part of our heritage. But the National Gallery has made it clear that if the National Museum of Wales can raise the money, the National Gallery will stand down."

Mr Timothy Stevens, keeper of paintings at the Welsh museum, said: "We are taking soundings from certain benefactors". He hopes to

combine public fund raising with money from private benefactors. The National Art Collections Fund has offered £250,000 for whichever collection attempts to buy the painting.

The picture has been in Britain for centuries, mainly at Powis Castle, Powys. It was once in the collection of Clive of India.

If attempts to raise the money fail, the painting will be exported to the Getty Museum in Malibu, California. Meanwhile, with less than a

month to go before the end of the export ban, fund-raising continues at a healthy pace for the Kirkleatham Silver Centrepiece, which Temple Newsam House, Leeds, is also trying to keep in this country. The J Paul Getty Trust has provided £10,000 towards the required £750,000 and more than £560,000 has been raised.

"We are more hopeful now than we were two weeks ago, having raised the money from a combination of local charities and private people", Mr James Lomax, of Temple

Newsam, one of three galleries run by Leeds City Art Gallery, said.

The centrepiece, described by Mr Lomax as "a Huguenot masterpiece of the fourteenth century", comprises a central twelve with many detachable branches for candlesticks, cruet and small dishes.

The valuation, thought by some members of the trade to be too high, was arrived at by the dealers S J Phillips, who are selling the piece on behalf of a private owner.

Boxing Day with The Times

The Times will be publishing on Boxing Day this year. There will be complete up-to-date cards for all eight race meetings on Boxing Day and a full guide to the football and rugby that day. As well as a full Saturday section with all the regular contributors, there will be a Jumbo Crossword, a Christmas Quiz, complete weekend television and radio and entertainment listings.

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Research in drugs suffers as Treasury denies new funds

By Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

A collaborative research and development programme for pharmaceuticals, being drawn up under the Government's £400 million Link scheme, has put the Medical Research Council "under extreme financial pressure", according to the council.

The three-year programme, to be launched early in the new year, will bring together university and industry researchers in a project to find ways of better targeting of drugs at specific organs.

Under the Link scheme, pharmaceutical companies will be expected to provide half the cost of the collaboration, about £2 million, with the MRC, Science and Engineering Research Council and the Department of Trade and Industry providing the rest.

However, the Government has set aside no new money for the scheme. As a result, the £500,000 that the MRC is expected to provide will have to come out of existing budgets, and vital medical research will have to suffer, Dr David Rees, secretary of the MRC, said.

"Contrary to what we were encouraged to think at the beginning there is in fact no extra money. We are under extreme financial pressure", Dr Rees, who is also a member of the Link steering committee.

The £1.3 million second phase of the West of Scotland Science Park was opened yesterday, bringing 66 new jobs (Kerry Gill writes). The park, set up in 1983, already employs 114 people working on projects from computer hardware design to biotechnology research.

The opening of the second phase came after the park's success in attracting companies to the Glasgow site on the edge of Glasgow, designed to bring together industry and the academic world.

set up by the Government in October, said.

"It is bad enough with the existing projects, never mind trying to get Link off the ground."

He blamed the lack of money and bureaucratic confusion over how the programme and its results should be handled for the delay in getting Link off the ground, over a year after its launch by Sir Geoffrey Pattie, former Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry.

However, he believed that the MRC could not afford to shun involvement in the drug delivery and targeting programme. "We have squeezed blood out of a stone to get this money, but we are all agreed that it is an area where industrial collaboration is a good thing."

The accurate delivery and targeting of drugs is one of the outstanding challenges facing the pharmaceutical industry. Better precision would enable smaller doses to be given, reducing the risk of side effects.

Nine main pharmaceutical companies are believed to have decided to put up the £100,000 needed for involvement, including Beecham, Wellcome, Glaxo and ICI.

Another six have yet to decide, including Celltech, whose chief executive, Mr Gerald Fairclough, is on the Link steering committee.

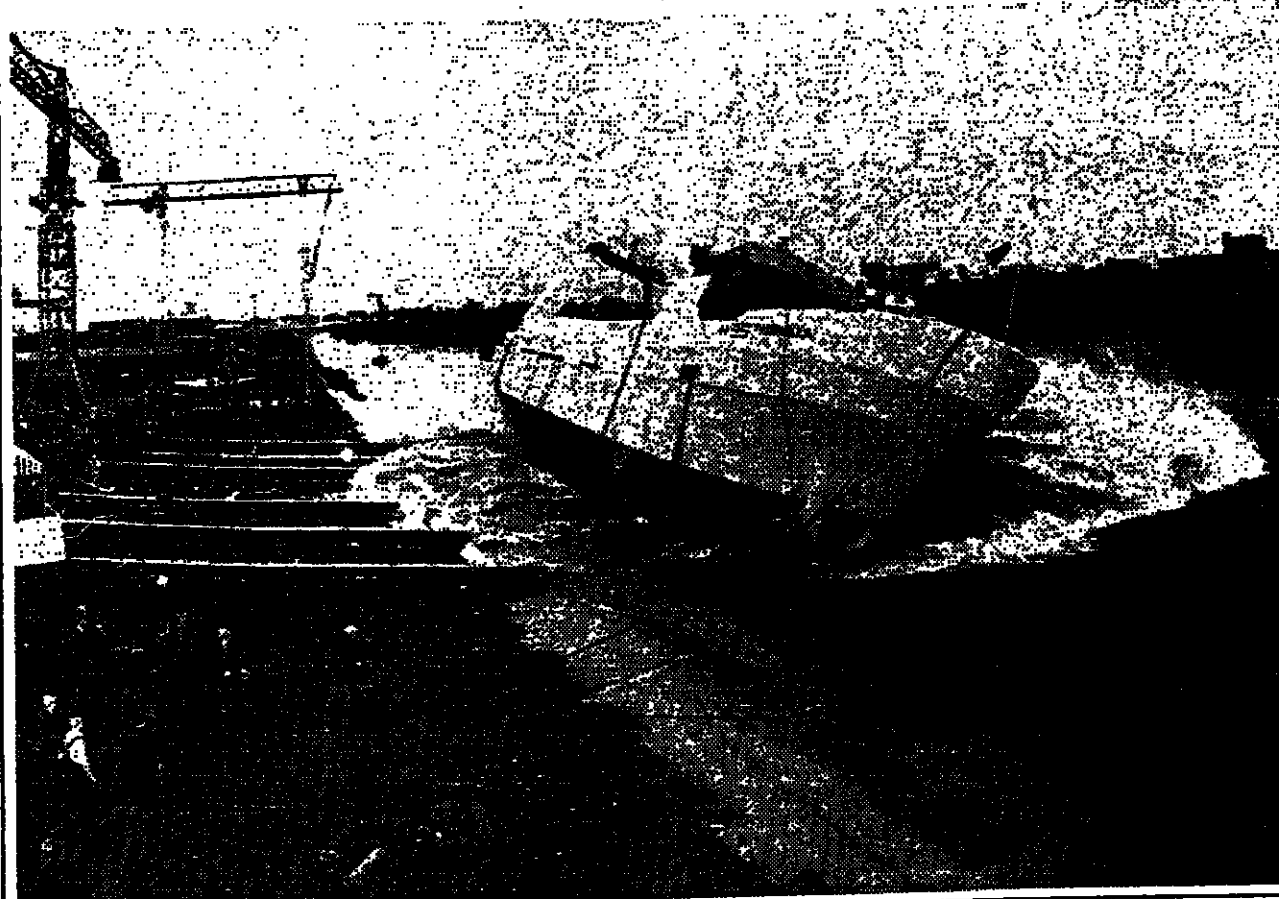
However, in common with proposed Link ventures in electronics, the pharmaceutical research venture has been affected by arguments about the level of overheads allowed under Treasury rules.

Some companies are claiming that the fixed allowance set by the Treasury means that its full share of the cost of the collaboration. The universities appear not to have received any overhead allowance.

Overheads on earlier collaborative ventures such as the Alvey information technology initiative were calculated on the basis of audited accounts.

One leading company believed that the Treasury regarded the earlier system as too generous.

Trawler revives fishing pride



The 128R Thorvald, the largest trawler to be built in the United Kingdom for more than 10 years, entering the river Ouse early yesterday as she was launched at Cochrane's yard, Selby, North Yorkshire.

The "open" stern trawler, with modern conveyors for quicker handling of the catch, is the first of two in a £5 million order placed by J Marr (Fishing) Ltd, of Hull.

The ship which was named by Mrs Bridget Marr, wife of one of the company directors, will have a crew of 14 and will operate in European waters.

Labour's inner city plea

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

The Labour Party yesterday demanded a fresh start in the Government's inner cities policy with a central role for local councils and more public spending.

Mr Bryan Gould, shadow spokesman for trade and industry, accused the Government of being the one agency opposed to the developing

consensus on how to deal with the problems of rundown urban inner city areas.

He welcomed the appointment of Mr Kenneth Clarke as the minister to co-ordinate government policy.

Mr Gould urged Mr Clarke to build on the consensus developing between the public and private sectors by recognizing a central role for local government.

He said that so far, the actions of the Department of the Environment had been seen as part of a strategy to undermine local government, particularly in areas under Labour control.

Mr Gould called for greater public spending on the inner cities. He said private sector cash could not be a substitute for a sufficient level of government funding.

Charity to get Sting concert fee of £10,000

Sting, the international rock star, who admits he knew little about schizophrenia until he met Marjorie Wallace, author of a series in the *Times* about the illness, has raised £10,000 towards a schizophrenia charity.

It was his share of the profits of a concert he gave in Wembley stadium on Sunday night. He presented the cheque to Miss Wallace after the concert, which drew an audience of 7,000.

The audience was told the concert was to aid Schizophrenia: National Emergency (SANE), formed after *The Times* series as an initiative of News International and the Burton Group. Its aims are to raise funds for research into the cause and eventual cure for the disease, to help victims and their families and to promote awareness.

Sting said: "When I learnt about the suffering that so many young people and their families endure and how little the health services are doing for them, I was deeply moved."

"I often get asked to support charities but this appealed to me because it is a specific illness which we can focus on and help people to understand."

Schizophrenia attacks one in a hundred people, mainly in their late teens or early twenties.

This week SANE announced that it has given £10,000 to projects for research and care.

RC verdict 'key to women priests'

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The prospect of women priests in the Church of England is likely to turn on the verdict of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission on the issue, according to the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, in an interview with *The Times*.

He makes it clear that the commission's report will be decisive for his own attitude. The commission has already begun its study of female ordination, but is unlikely to complete it within five years, and could take longer.

Dr Habgood, a supporter of the principle of the ordination of women, who has had major influence in the debate so far, has never previously put such crucial weight on the importance of the Roman Catholic Church's view, which is well known to be against female ordination.

The commission has been set up directly under the authority of the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, as head of the Anglican communion.

Dr Habgood says the key question the international commission (known as ARCIC) has to answer is not whether the ordination of women is correct, but whether it is a primary or secondary issue. If it is primary, the ordination of women in Anglicanism would be an insuperable barrier to church unity.

If it is secondary — and church sources frequently cite the celibacy of the clergy as a typical "secondary" issue — then it would not be such a barrier.

Dr Habgood believes that the ordination of women is a secondary matter. If a solid theological case can be made for that view, then it would be possible to ordain women in the Church of England without a big division.

But "if a large number of people and ARCIC itself comes to the conclusion that this is a primary matter touching the very nature of the priesthood, then I think many members of the Church of England will decide that this is a matter which touches too closely upon tradition as being part of the Catholic Church. And I have no intention of doing anything which will threaten that perception of the Church of England."

The commission's study of the issue will not reach the stage of trying to answer Dr Habgood's question for another two or three years, it is understood.

Before that it will try to produce an agreed report on the concept of *koinonia* or communion, concerning the nature of the relationship between different parts of the church.

After that it would apply the findings of its report to a number of specific issues: female priests, moral teaching and the validity of Anglican Orders in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church.

The logic of Dr Habgood's position is that he will have to try to persuade the General Synod to postpone a final decision, which is at present likely to be made in 1990 or 1991, until the commission's verdict appears.

Solicitors must hand over files

Police pursuing drug traffickers were given a boost by a High Court ruling yesterday.

Two judges ruled that solicitors holding clients' documents or other material which might provide evidence of crime could not refuse to disclose the information to the police on the ground of the solicitor-client relationship.

Lord Justice Lloyd, sitting with Mr Justice Macpherson, said the solicitors, Francis and Francis, from Wembley, north-west London, must comply with an order to produce files connected with a house purchased by a "Mrs G". Police suspected that the money to buy the house came from drug trafficking.

The solicitors had appealed against the order, made by a Central Criminal Court judge in June, arguing that the solicitor-client relationship provided a reasonable ground for refusing to hand over the files. Dismissing their case, the judges gave the solicitors leave to renew their appeal to the House of Lords.

More than £350,000 of drug runners' money is being used to help addicts to break the habit and steer young people away from drug taking, West Mercia police said yesterday. The money is going to 240 charitable organizations.

The money was part of a £396,668 haul seized by police two years ago.

Two fined for false TSB deals

Two men were fined at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday for TSB share offences.

Ignatius Moskovits, organizer of a profit making scheme for a Jewish school in Salford made more than 20 legal share applications on behalf of the scheme, but then sold shares illegally.

Moskovits, aged 38, of Brown Lane, Salford, was fined £900 with £500 costs.

Martin Weinberg, aged 57, of Dancoway, Prestwich, Manchester, was fined £1,500 on three specimen charges of obtaining 300 TSB shares.

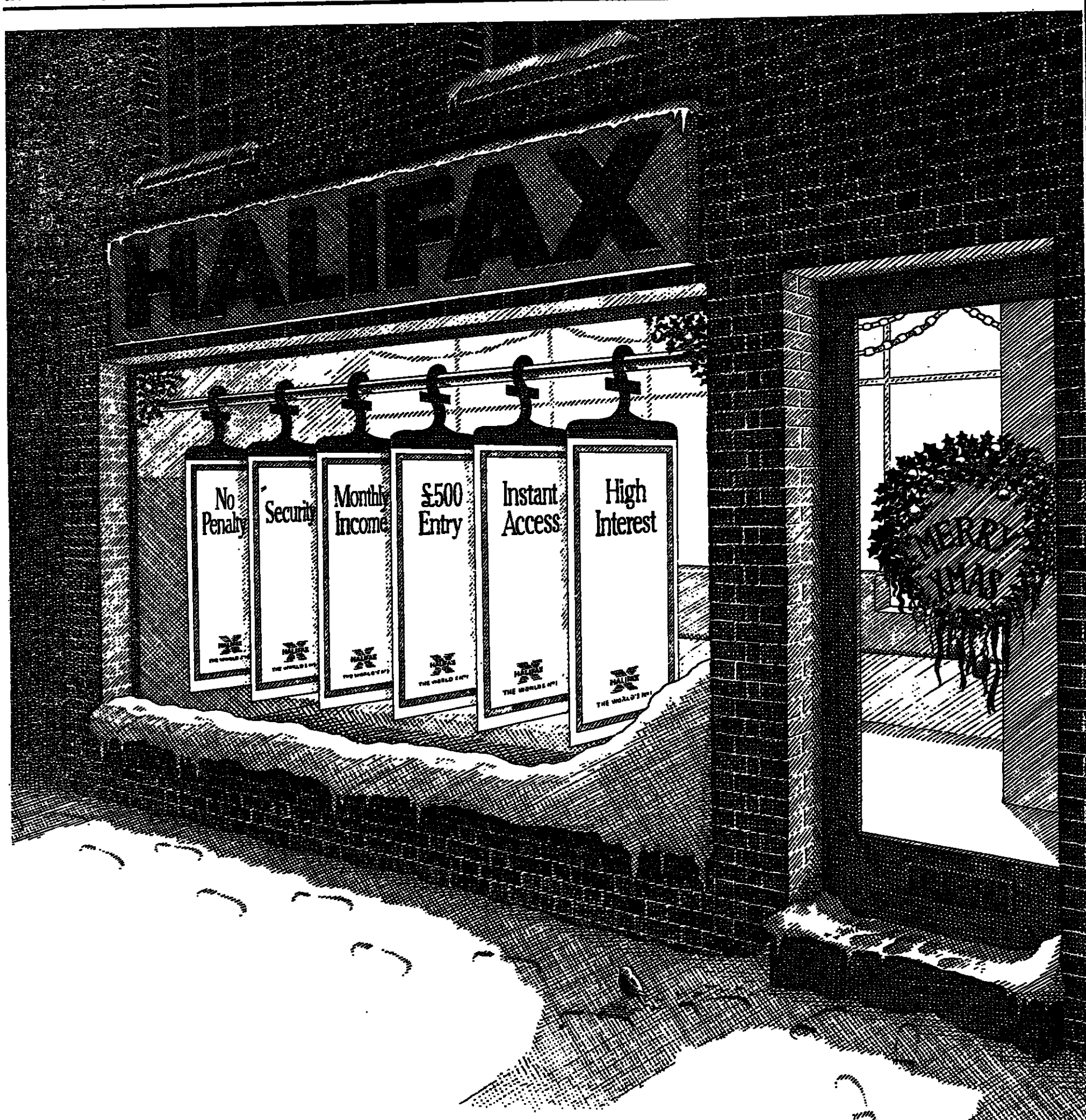
Death verdict wife is freed

Georgina Hancock, aged 41, who stabbed to death her husband, Frank, on March 1 after he taunted her about his affair with a neighbour, was given a two-year suspended jail sentence at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Hancock, of Garratt Terrace, Tooting, south-west London, admitted manslaughter and her plea of not guilty to murder was accepted.

Girl remanded

A girl aged 16 was accused yesterday of murdering Shaun Snape, aged 18, at a house in Kirby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. She was remanded into the care of the local authority until December 30 by Mansfield magistrates.



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WORLD ROUNDUP

Babangida drops foreign minister

Lagos (Reuters) - Nigeria's military President, General Ibrahim Babangida, dropped the Foreign Minister, Mr Bolaji Akinyemi, from his Cabinet yesterday in a reshuffle affecting six ministries, an official statement said.

Mr Akinyemi, who at times has appeared out of step with Government policy, was replaced by the Labour Minister, Major-General Ige Nwachukwu. General Babangida merged the two key economic ministries of Finance and National Planning, putting the Finance Minister, Mr Chuk Obiagwu, in charge. The former Planning Minister, Mr Kalu I. Kala, who appeared to have been demoted, was given the Transport portfolio.

Massacre charges

Harare - Seven squatters have appeared in court in Bulawayo in connection with the massacre last month of 16 white members of a Pentecostal religious community outside the city (Jan Raath writes).

The seven, all of whom squatted on one of the two adjoining farms 12 miles south of Bulawayo, are to be charged with being part of the gang of 20 that committed the worst such atrocity in the country's history. As far as could be ascertained, security forces have yet to apprehend the guerrillas responsible for the killing.

Air crash kills 16

Bordeaux (Reuters) - A commuter aircraft crashed on approach to Bordeaux airport yesterday and all 16 people on board were feared dead. Firemen said 15 bodies had been found in the wreckage of the Embraer Brasilia aircraft, which burst into flames on impact.

The 30-seat twin turbo-prop aircraft, operated by Air Littoral, was flying from Brussels to Madrid with a scheduled stop in Bordeaux. Local officials said the aircraft came down in fog and crashed into a wood in the suburb of Eysines.

Inspection go-ahead

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, left, congratulating Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet Ambassador, after they had formally exchanged notes on verification of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) arms treaty at the Foreign Office yesterday (Nicholas Beeston writes). It cleared the way for Soviet inspectors to visit the US cruise missile bases at Greenham Common and Molesworth.

The bilateral agreement concluded the formal aspect of Britain's participation in the US-Soviet treaty. Britain will now await confirmation from the Soviet mission that Moscow and its inspectors will comply with protocol on inspection. Sir Geoffrey said afterwards: "We need to see progress in human rights and the resolution of conflicts."

Food plea Family for Eritrea demand

Three-quarters of a million Eritreans living in areas outside Ethiopian government control desperately need at least 200,000 tonnes of emergency food supplies, a British aid expert who returned from the region said yesterday (Nicholas Beeston writes).

Mr Lionel Cliffe, the director of the Centre for Development Studies at Leeds University, went on a trip co-ordinated with the Eritrean Relief Association. He said: "The situation is deteriorating fast. An airlift is not the solution. Only trucks, travelling by daylight and free from the threat of air raids, can deliver enough food to meet these needs."

£406 m prize draw

Madrid - Spaniards prepared a rousing welcome for the traditional Christmas visit of "El Gordo" ("The Fat One") here today, as a dozen boys and girls prepared to give away more than £2 billion tax-free prizes (£406 million) in the biggest draw in the world - Spain's annual Christmas lottery (Harry Debelius writes).

The choirboys and girls of St Ildefonso's school in Madrid will sing out the numbers and their corresponding prizes as they are drawn from two wire cages at the National Lottery Administration in a ceremony which is 170 years old.

Tennessee picks image-maker's dream

From Michael Binayon
Nashville, Tennessee

The state of Tennessee and Mr Albert Gore Jr, its 39-year-old senator and presidential candidate, are brimming with confidence. Tennessee, a long thin strip bordered by more states than any other in the United States, is fast becoming the new industrial heartland of America; Senator Gore, reflecting this shiny new image, is fast becoming the favourite son of all the South.

Tennessee has a longer reach than its caricature as home to hillbillies, Elvis Presley, and Country and Western music. Its eastern tip is nearer to Canada than to Memphis, its biggest city. Three-quarters of the US population live within 500 miles of its borders. And the boom has come to this state of rolling hills and small towns, middle-of-the-road politics and Middle American values.

After the longest search by General Motors, America's biggest company picked Tennessee for its automated car plant of the future. Honda decided to open a new plant in the state. Other industries have followed, with heavy investment also from Britain, Canada and Japan.

The state's economic optimism

has now been matched with political enthusiasm, focused on Senator Gore. Like the Georgians, whose pride swelled with the 1976 candidacy of their former Governor Jimmy Carter, Tennessee Democrats are now spreading the Gore message with fervour to the state's many neighbours.

There is no pretence of neutrality: the governor has already endorsed the senator, and the state party organization is like an extension of the hectic, rollicking Gore campaign. No help is given to other contenders beyond what party rules dictate. Few have bothered to campaign here.

Local pride naturally exaggerates his qualities and his chances. But there is no denying he is an image-maker's dream candidate: handsome, telegraphic, intellectually formidable, a master of the details of such heavyweight subjects as arms control, he is the son of a former senator from an established family, a Harvard graduate who went to Vietnam so that his father's opposition to the war could not be decried as unpatriotic.

He has a wife who has campaigned against obscene pop lyrics and moved into the more fashionably



Senator Gore: He saw a campaign opening on the right and seized it.

liberal cause of violence against women. He has a strong voice, quick wit, and solid record in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

His detractors say he is too smooth, too ambitious, more a Washington politician's son than a local figure, not a conservative until

he saw a campaign opening on the right, not psychologically a Southerner in a state that is itself ambiguous about its place in the South (part of Tennessee remained in the Union during the Civil War, the rest joined the Confederacy).

But Senator Gore, a late entrant in the race, has gambled everything on the Southern connection, and it appears to be paying off. With 18 per cent in the polls, he is far ahead of all his rivals, except the Rev Jesse Jackson, in the states that vote in the "Super Tuesday" regional block-buster on March 8.

He has all but abandoned Iowa, and is campaigning only low-key in New Hampshire to avoid a liberal trap and to harbour his considerable campaign funds for an advertising blitz in the South. Only Governor Michael Dukakis has spent or appeared as much in the region.

It is a gamble because Senator Gore has to hold his fire, forgoing the advantages of early national attention and momentum. And regional loyalties, though important, are fading.

The South is becoming more fragmented: the new industry states of Tennessee and Georgia are much better off than the beleaguered heart-

lands of Alabama and Mississippi, and differ again from the boom-bust oil states of Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. There is no distinctive Southern issue. And if there was, at least two men not in the race - Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia and former Governor Charles Robb of Virginia - would represent it better.

But Senator Gore does articulate a message that appeals to a largely conservative, traditional Bible-Belt electorate, which voted overwhelmingly for Ronald Reagan in 1984: fiscal conservatism, a hard line on Central America, strong defence, gradualism on social policy.

It is a message that comes over in the presidential debates, one that could attract some Republicans - or at least stop the feared defection to that camp of many white Southern voters.

Stomping a whole region rather than two little Northern states has its drawbacks: there is time for little more than a quick kiss in the main media markets, where strategists nowadays focus their energies. In a sense, Mr Gore can take Nashville for granted: he has certainly spent more time in the key states of Texas, Georgia and Florida.

Rome airport attacker says he repents of the 'horror'

Rome (AP) - The only Palestinian to survive the 1985 Rome airport massacre called the terrorist attack a "gesture full of horror" and stayed away from his trial yesterday to spare the victims more grief.

Mahmud Ibrahim Khaled, who turned 20 at the trial's opening last week, also said in a written statement he hoped that one day the victims' families would forgive him and that Palestinians and Israelis could live in peace together.

Mr Khaled is the only one of three defendants in Italian custody in the trial for the attack at Leonardo da Vinci airport. Sixteen people, including three Palestinian guerrillas, died and about 80 people were injured.

A second defendant is the alleged terrorist mastermind, Abu Nidal, the leader of the Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council. The third is another fugitive Palestinian, Rashid el-Hameida.

At the opening of Monday's session, Mr Khaled's lawyer read a statement by his client, who, as on the opening day, apologized to Italy for the Italian victims, saying he had "nothing against Italy".

"I am sorry for what I did against them and I am sorry for the death and injury of many other innocents," he said in a statement.

In another statement - a letter read to the court by Judge Filippo Antonioni - Mr Khaled said he was staying away because "my presence

(in court) will only aggravate suffering" of relatives of the victims and could also be taken as a sign that his "repentance" was "false".

However, he said, he might attend later sessions.

The four guerrillas went into action near the check-in counters of TWA, the US carrier, and the Israeli airline El Al on the morning of December 27, 1985, throwing hand grenades and spraying the terminal with machinegun fire. Israeli and Italian security answered the fire.

In the one and a half-page typewritten letter in Italian read by the judge, he said, thanks to a "certain maturity" obtained while in prison, he realized the attack was "a gesture full of horror".

His reflection, he said, convinced him that "there are no words to take away the pain of the sorrow of the families of the victims. If they have the strength, I hope some day they will forgive me."

The trial was adjourned to January 15.

ATHENS: Midhat Nouri al-Hayali, an Iraqi diplomat attached to the Arab League office here, was shot and seriously wounded yesterday as he was driving through a northern suburb of the Greek capital (A Correspondent writes).

Doctors at the General State Hospital said Mr al-Hayali was in a serious but stable condition with a bullet lodged in his back. They said he was likely to recover.

Palestinians on parade with coffins and flags



Palestinians marching with coffins and flags at El Bureij camp, Gaza Strip, yesterday in memory of those killed in protests.

Israel's press demands realism

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The press in Israel is castigating the Government here for continued inactivity on the political front while the military campaign against Palestinian unrest in the occupied territories gathers momentum.

According to *Hadashot*, the administration's behaviour is "almost impossible to understand". It said: "The senior political echelon must quickly act to stop the erosion of Israel's international position ..."

"Without an immediate action from our side, (President) Mubarak (of Egypt) and (King) Hussein (of Jordan) will not acquiesce in what is occurring in the territories. There is a limit to moderation, too."

Haaretz, talking of the wide support given by Israeli Arabs for yesterday's general strike in support of the Palestinians, complained that not enough had been done to make the Arab population identify with Israel. It commented: "Instead, we have done a great deal to alienate them, to discriminate against them, to prevent them becoming partners in responsibility for ruling at all levels, to scorn them in the area of everyday contact with the Jewish population."

The strike was another reminder of the threat of a brutal cycle, the paper said. "The mass circulation daily, *Yedioth Aharnoth*, pondered how American protests about events had been dismissed as "payment to the Arabs". It would be no help to pretend not to hear such criticism. "Just as it won't be any use to ignore the storm in the territories," the paper said. "Self-delusion does not enhance our security, or bring us any closer to a settlement with our neighbours. Only an ostrich buries its head in the sand when the reality is uncomfortable."

Maoir looked at the way the Government blamed the media for their portrayal of what was happening. This was "a miserable attempt at evading reality", it said. "The

country's leaders must accept the fact that we live in an open society, and that the territories cannot be hermetically sealed each time there are unflattering reports about Israeli rule there."

"Every casualty increases the conflict and brutality, and insures the continuation of the disturbances ... Ultimately, the killing also harms the morale of the security forces ... Israeli society is not built to withstand bloodshed of this kind as the price of our presence in the territories."

"The terrorist organizations inciting the riots know this. Those responsible for state security should also take into account the obligations entailed by Israel's democratic nature."

The English-language *Jerusalem Post* has been particularly outspoken. An article by its Middle East editor, Yehuda Litani, entitled "A nation living in Cloud-cuckoo-land" said: "In order to be able to sleep well at night, we distort

our true image of the oppressor and occupier, fearing to look into the mirror and face the ugly reality." An editorial, headlined "The Sleepwalkers", concluded that the Arabs of the occupied territories had served notice that they would not reconcile themselves to permanent Israeli rule. "They will not buy the Likud's permanent *Gestapo*-like status for themselves, and will in fact resist any effort to impose it."

It continued: "Israeli power, awesome in regular military encounter, is subject to severe limitations when exercised against various forms of civil rebellion. Israel's supporters abroad, upon which this nation remains utterly dependent, will not accept the types of violent 'anti-terrorist' programmes advocated by those with greater *Erzetz* *Vital* (annexation of the territories), not peace, on their minds. Only sleepwalkers pretending to be statesmen can turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to these plain lessons."

Shia raid triggers barrage on Lebanon villages

From Robert Fisk, west Beirut

Another pre-dawn attack by Lebanese guerrillas on Israel's proxy "South Lebanon Army" militia in southern Lebanon cost the lives of up to 12 people yesterday, five of them Shia Muslim gunmen and the remainder - according to Lebanese authorities - civilians who died in the militia-men's retaliatory artillery fire.

The original assault on the small SLA outpost at Ach-iyeh inside the narrow strip of territory still occupied by Israeli troops followed a classic guerrilla pattern: a surprise

assault at night by massed gunmen and a fierce battle at close quarters with General Antoine Lahd's increasingly vulnerable army of militia-men. The response was almost equally familiar.

Scarcely two hours after the battle - in which five guerrillas were killed and two SLA men wounded - shells began to explode across a series of Shia Muslim villages around the town of Nabatieh. The local authorities, who accused the Israelis of firing upon the area, said later that seven people

were killed, including two policemen, and 13 civilians wounded, among them five schoolchildren and two Lebanese Red Cross workers.

According to the Israelis themselves, the attack on the SLA's position on the Ali At-Taher hill, involved up to 50 pro-Iranian Hezbollah "Party of God" guerrillas firing rocket-propelled grenades. In previous offensives of this kind, the SLA has been wiped out and yesterday's battle therefore suggests a greater alertness on the part of Israel's

ally in southern Lebanon. The retaliation, however, means that the very bitterness which creates more recruits for the Hezbollah will be provoked once again.

In Beirut, meanwhile, there was further debilitating proof of Lebanon's economic collapse when Citibank, one of the last two American banks still operating here, announced that it would be closing its offices.

Clients were advised to contact the bank to re-deposit their funds.

Ozal names his ministers

'Liberals' dominate Turkish Cabinet

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, yesterday announced his team for the next five years in office after his victory in last month's elections.

The 25-strong Cabinet, which includes a woman, Mrs Imren Aykut, the Labour Minister, lacked the novel structure he had promised and a strengthened fundamentalist wing, both reportedly because of the opposition of President Evren.

The dominance of the "liberals" became more marked with the inclusion as State Ministers of Mr Yusuf Ozal, the Prime Minister's younger brother, and Mr Adnan Kahveci, his 38-year-old chief adviser.

Mr Yusuf Ozal, who will be responsible for the Treasury

and foreign trade as well as the state planning organization which he headed until the election, will steer the economy through the difficulties predicted for the coming years, although the veteran Mr Kaya Erdem, kept on as Deputy Prime Minister, will be in nominal charge as co-ordinator of economic ministries.

Ankara (Reuters) - Turkey's new Cabinet is:

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, Deputy PM and Minister of State (senior ministers): Abdullah Tenekeci, Kazim Oksey, Vesalet Aksoy, Ali Bozer, Yusuf Ozal, Adnan Kahveci, Mehmet Yazar, Cemil Cicek, Nihat Kizilip. Defence: Ercan Vuralhan, Interior: Mustafa Kalemli, Foreign Affairs: Mesut Yilmaz, Finance and Customs: Kartopek

Mr Adnan Kahveci, who was recruited a long time ago from an academic post in the US, will apparently be required to produce innovative solutions in housing, privatization and research.

Another important appointment was the replacement of Mr Vahit Halefoglu, the retiring Foreign Minister, by Mr

Mesut Yilmaz, the 40-year-old German-trained protégé of Ozal who served successively in his Government as a spokesman and Tourism Minister.

Mr Ali Bozer, the State Minister in charge of relations with the EEC, retained his post in the new Cabinet.

Mr Ercan Vuralhan, a career diplomat, was given the Defence portfolio.

A conspicuous absence from the Cabinet was Mr Mehmet Kocociler, one of Mr Ozal's deputies and reputed head of the party's strong fundamentalist faction. Despite an overdue denial by Mr Ozal, Mr Kocociler, distrusted by many leading Ozal associates, was struck off the list by President Evren.

East African cold war sets in

From Paul Valley
Nairobi

The shooting has stopped at the border between Kenya and Uganda, but in its place a cold war has set in.

Both sides appear, unofficially, to have closed the frontier around the main crossing point at Busia, where last week the Ugandan Army and Kenyan police exchanged fierce bursts of gunfire and light artillery fire. Both sides are reported to be harassing the residents and diplomats of their opponents.

In Kenya, the Central Organization of Trade Unions has announced that its workers will refuse to handle goods bound for landlocked Uganda. Some 12,000 of its members control the port at Mombassa, which is the main point of entry for Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi as well as for Kenya itself. Workers are also refusing to handle Ugandan goods at Nairobi's rail terminal.

Officially, Kenya maintains that the border is open, but no Kenyan lorries, which carry a vital supply of oil and petrol to Uganda, are crossing. Kenyan officials say this is because lorry drivers are afraid to travel. Uganda sees it as a plot to

paralyse its economy, which is dependent upon oil supplies carried through Kenya.

Certainly Kenya is refusing to allow Ugandan citizens to cross the border, thus denying Uganda its main outlet for its chief export, coffee. Travellers at Nairobi airport report that passengers arriving from Kampala are subject to some inconvenience. Ugandan citizens are simply told to get back on the plane. Other nationals are allowed to enter only on three-day visas and provided they have an outward-bound air ticket. A number of Ugandan citizens, including coffee-exporting officials at Mombassa, have been expelled.

A limited amount of trade is taking place across the border. Citizens of Rwanda and Burundi are apparently being allowed to cross with cargo, although reports out of those countries indicate that, anticipating the latest crisis in Ugandan-Kenyan relations, both have laid up three-month stocks of oil.

In Uganda the closure of the border is already having an effect. Diplomats there report long queues for petrol at the city's garages. The price of consumer goods normally imported through Mombassa has rocketed in Kampala's markets.

Some diplomatic efforts have been made to calm the situation. Uganda has sent emissaries to Lusaka to speak with President Kaunda of Zambia, the chairman of the Organization of African Unity. Yesterday the Tanzanian Foreign Minister, Mr Benjamin Mkandawire, was due to arrive in Kampala for talks.

But despite this, the atmosphere, particularly in Kenya where the newspapers are in a mood of high jingoism, remains volatile. The Nairobi newspapers continue to underline Uganda's contacts with Libya and North Korea, which supply President Museveni with arms to use against the rebels there. But a report that 500 Libyan troops arrived at Entebbe airport on Saturday was received with some scepticism by Western observers in Kampala yesterday.

"There is no real tension here," said one Western diplomat in the Ugandan capital. "But people are perplexed and rather chafed-off by Kenya's behaviour. But there is no war lust." There is very little in Nairobi either, despite the vehemence of the political rhetoric. But the prospect of a long, drawn-out continuation of this East African cold war seems all too real to most informed observers.

Book challenges 'Christian myth' Jewish furore over life of Jesus

From Charles Bremner, New York

New York's Orthodox Jewish community is up in arms over a Yuletide book for Jewish children that tells the life of Jesus, describing him as a good and powerful man, but not the Son of God.

"American Jews are afraid of Jesus," Ms Esther Cohen said yesterday. She is the head of Adama Books, a Jewish firm which published Daniel Bloom's *Man Of Galilee* last month, excepting complaints from the Christian right. Instead, it has generated a furore among conservative Jews.

Ms Cohen said a number of mainstream Jewish bookshops had refused to stock the book - despite its treatment of Jesus's life from the standard Jewish point of view - after a vigorous campaign by Orthodox organizations.

book's inclusion at a Jewish book fair last month.

"People have been calling 24 hours a day," Ms Cohen said. "You'd think they would have got used to Jesus. After all, it's been a long time."

A headline in the *Jewish Press*, a weekly, ran: "Warning! Some books could be dangerous to your child's religious health."

The newspaper went on to condemn the decision to display the book at the fair. Other attacks have accused Ms Cohen and Mr Bloom of conspiring with Christian missionaries to subvert Jewish children.

Mr Bloom, a 38-year-old journalist, said he wrote the book for Jewish children who are integrated into American society and want to know

about Jesus, particularly at this time of year.

The book explains that "Joshua" was born as a normal son to Miriam and Joseph and that he was later called Jesus. There was no star and no manger.

"Some people believe that Joshua was more than a man, but this is not so. He was born like other children and he grew into manhood like everyone else. And when he died, at the age of 35, he died like anyone else also."

Mr Bloom says that Christians believe Joshua was the Son of God, "but we all know this isn't true, because God has no sons or daughters." He concludes: "Every nation in every corner of the earth has had a man or a woman like Joshua living among them, speaking out against harmful

ways and unkind thoughts. That we remember Joshua today is a testimony to his powerful personality."

According to Mr Michael Miller, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the book is misleading in identifying Jesus as a Jew and is "an attempt to blur the lines between Judaism and Christianity."

Mr Bloom, who lives in Alaska, says his book is the first children's book in 2,000 years to challenge "the Christian myth of Jesus". He says he has been taken aback by the criticism, especially since he believed the "myth" had given birth to Christian bigotry.

Ms Cohen said: "Jesus is such a deep-seated emotional subject. They just don't want Jesus in the bookstore."

Nicaragua peace negotiations

Contras back their case by claiming capture of villages

Santo Domingo (Reuters) — The Nicaraguan Government and the US-backed Contra rebels were preparing for a second round of peace talks in the Dominican Republic yesterday, a day after the Contras claimed a victory against the left-wing Sandinistas.

The Contras attacked three towns in north-east Nicaragua on Sunday and claimed to have captured them, destroying military installations.

Señor Adolfo Calero, the rebels' political leader, said 7,000 Contras were involved in the operation, which he described as "the first great step towards the liberation of Nicaragua".

Defence Ministry sources in Managua confirmed that the mining towns of Sina, La Rosita and Bonanza, about 150 miles north-east of the capital, had been attacked. There were no details of casualties or damage.

The attacks, an attempt to give military teeth to the Contras' political demands, came on the eve of a second round of indirect peace negotiations on this Caribbean island aimed at arranging a truce in the war which pits Nicaragua's Soviet-backed army against an estimated 12,000 Contras who are armed, trained and funded by the United States. On Sunday the White House and the US

Congress agreed to provide \$8.1 million in new aid to the Contras.

The talks, the result of a regional peace accord for ending Central America's conflicts, were to begin after the arrival of the mediator, Cardinal

Managua (AP) — The Nicaraguan Government has declared a national food emergency because of the devastating effects of drought. It called on the international community for assistance because of poor harvests of beans, corn, rice and sorghum and has also estimated losses of \$50 million (\$27 million) in exports such as cotton, coffee and sugar cane.

About 530,000 people, living in areas ranging from the northern border with Honduras to the south-eastern province of Chinandega, have been especially hard hit. Rains were light during the May-October rainy season, leaving much of the region parched.

Miguel Obando y Bravo, the Archbishop of Managua.

He was to meet the rebel delegation at the palace of the Archbishop of Santo Domingo and then hold a separate meeting there with officials of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front and its three foreign advisers in the talks, a West

German politician and two Americans.

Herr Hans-Jürgen Wischniewski, a leader of West Germany's opposition Social Democratic Party, Professor Roger Fisher of Harvard University and Mr Paul Reichler, a lawyer, were also to meet the rebels. Sandinista officials have refused to meet the Contras.

The talks followed the announcement this week of a two-day truce for Christmas, the first mutually agreed ceasefire in the six-year war.

The rebels have demanded amnesty for political prisoners, the abolition of the state of emergency and the restoration of full press freedoms before laying down their arms. They say these measures are demanded by the regional accord signed by five Central American Presidents in Guatemala last August 7.

But the Government, also citing the Guatemala accord, has said that in exchange the rebels must stop receiving funds from the United States and dismantle bases in neighbouring Honduras.

The accord called for ceasefires in the guerrilla wars in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua and a range of democratic reforms in each Central American country, as well as an end to outside support for rebel forces.

Cosmonauts blast off in Soyuz for their orbiting station



Lined up for lift-off: Soviet cosmonauts yesterday, left to right, Mr Anatoly Levchenko, Colonel Vladimir Titov and Flight Engineer Musa Manarov.

Mir mission could open way to Soviet space shuttle by 1989

Moscow (Reuters) — Three Soviet cosmonauts were launched in a Soyuz spacecraft yesterday on what is expected to be a third long-term mission to the orbiting Mir space station.

Colonel Vladimir Titov, the mission commander, Flight Engineer Musa Manarov, and Mr Anatoly Levchenko, a research scientist, lifted off at 11.18 GMT from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Soviet Central Asia. The launch of their Soyuz TM4 spacecraft was broadcast live on Soviet television.

The cosmonauts are due to dock with Mir tomorrow to replace Commander Yuri Romanenko, who set a new space endurance record on his current mission, and his crewmate, Flight Engineer Alexander Alexandrov.

Moscow radio quoted a senior Soviet space official as saying the third mission to Mir was expected to be a long-term one.

Mr Vladimir Stalov, head of the cosmonaut training centre, said several teams would join Colonel Titov and Flight Engineer Manarov aboard Mir for short visits, including a Soviet-Bulgarian crew expected to be launched in mid-1988.

The radio said Mr Levchenko, who is due to return to Earth with Commander Romanenko and Flight Engineer Alexandrov by December 31, would be "collecting data

necessary to learn to control a re-usable spacecraft being built in the Soviet Union".

Western space experts say the first launch of a Soviet space shuttle could take place before 1989, if problems with the craft's digital flight control system are resolved.

Mr, launched in February, 1986, is a giant orbiting laboratory designed to become the heart of the world's first permanently manned space station. The handover period this week could signal the start of its permanent occupation.

Commander Romanenko, aged 43, was launched last February 6 and shattered the space endurance record in October when his stay in orbit exceeded the 237-day flight of three Soviet cosmonauts in 1984. He has now spent 318 days in space.

Flight Engineer Alexandrov, aged 44, joined him aboard Mir last July when Romanenko's first crewmate, Alexander Laveikin, developed heart-beat irregularities and was brought back to Earth. Their mission was preceded by a 125-day stay aboard Mir by a two-man cosmonaut crew which returned to Earth in July 1986.

Colonel Titov, aged 40, made his first space flight in April 1983. His mission to the orbiting station Soyuz-7, a forerunner of Mir, was aborted after two days when a failure of the onboard control system prevented docking.

The steady progress of the Soviet space programme has contrasted with setbacks encountered by the United States, most notably the explosion of the shuttle Challenger in January, 1986, with seven astronauts on board.

In the past year Moscow has launched an ultra-modern research module which is now fixed to one of Mir's six docking ports. The Soviet Union has surged ahead in the fields of space research and high-precision space photography.

● **Landmark launch:** Yesterday's launch of three cosmonauts into orbit to replace Commander Romanenko and his crewmate in the Mir space station is a landmark in Soviet preparations to send a manned mission to Mars (Alexander Johnson writes).

By spending 318 days in space, experts say Commander Romanenko has significantly demonstrated Russian ability to keep a man in space for the period the trip would require. They believe that with the success of their Mir programme, and the launch of the enormously powerful Energiya launcher in May, the Russians could now send a man to Mars within the next few years.

According to Mr Bernard Gallagher, editor of *Jane's Aerospace*, the Russians are getting very close to proving they can manage the necessary

duration". Depending on which point in their orbits the two planets occupy at the moment of takeoff, a round trip from Earth to Mars would take from 14 months to two years.

The continuous occupation of the Mir space station will also provide invaluable information to Russian scientists about the likely snags of this kind of space habitat, since a craft very similar to the Mir will be used in the expedition to Mars. Two unmanned probes to be sent to Mars next year will provide further information.

But the most important discoveries provided by Commander Romanenko's mission in orbit concern the medical effects of prolonged weightlessness on the human body. Despite his rigorous daily routine of exercise, Commander Romanenko has suffered from wasting of muscle tissue and is now reported to be exhausted. Even the Russians have admitted as much, and have recently reduced his working day to four or five hours.

Mr Clive Simpson of *Flight International* magazine says that his feat means the Russians are now at least 10 years ahead of the Americans in terms of orbital experience. The space shuttle can manage only 10 days in orbit, and the 84 days spent in Skylab would be nothing to Commander Romanenko.

Police net Greenpeace protesters as Japan prepares to kill 300 whales

From David Watts, Tokyo

Police took a 50ft inflatable whale into custody yesterday — the centrepiece of a Greenpeace demonstration against a new Japanese whaling expedition due to begin later this week.

Six of the artificial mammal's minders, who rallied in Yokohama harbour on dinghies around the whales Nisaku Maru 3, were picked up by the Maritime Safety Agency for questioning. Their leader, Miss Anne Dingwall, has been ordered to report to police again today.

The Nisaku Maru is leaving for a three-month cruise to kill 300 minke whales for "scientific" purposes. Japan's

continuation of what Greenpeace calls "a thinly veiled attempt to skirt the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling", which "serves no legitimate scientific purpose", was strongly criticised at last week's meeting of the IWC science committee in Cambridge.

The plan itself was a pale version of a proposal rejected in June, under which Japan would have killed 825 minke and 50 sperm whales. In the 16-strong committee, only Japan and Iceland unequivocally supported continued killing of minke whales by Tokyo.

The anti-whaling pressure has become symbolic, to some sections of the Japanese population, of foreign countries trying to force the country to do things against its will and in violation of its history and culture.

Professor Syoiti Tanaka, Japan's foremost fisheries statistician, says he can get a clear picture from two culls four years apart. His critics fault his methodology as unscientific, and say the whole thing could be calculated with a few weeks' computer time.

Mr Neville Williams, of Greenpeace, said: "The minke is the only species of whale that man hasn't succeeded in

destroying. We're tired of listening to Japan's arguments. None of them hold up. Japan's not a Third World country that needs the protein. After the war they needed to eat whale to keep body and soul together, but now it's an exotic delicacy."

The industry in Japan now employs fewer than a thousand with about 100 related factories employing 3,600 people. Processing of whale products has fallen from 127,000 tonnes in 1975 to approximately 15,000 tonnes this year. Whale is still available in Tokyo if you like the taste of the mammal — a cross between meat and fish.

Army gas puts 1,000 in hospital

Alexandria (Reuters) — About 1,000 troops and civilians were taken to hospital after an accident at an army camp released clouds of chemical fog normally used for smokescreens.

An official of the Interior Ministry declined to name the chemical involved, but said thousands more civilians had been evacuated from their homes around the camp. Schools were closed and seven hospitals were alerted.

Freedom suit

Lagos (Reuters) — The Nigeria Labour Congress filed a suit with a Lagos court demanding the release of 16 detained trade unionists after the breakdown of talks with the Government. The 16 were detained by security agents last week for opposing oil price rises.

Muldoon ill

Wellington — Sir Robert Muldoon, the former New Zealand Prime Minister, was in a satisfactory condition in hospital yesterday after a bowel cancer operation. Aged 66, he had two polyps removed three weeks ago.

Asylum found

Madrid — Five Iranian refugees, including two children, were yesterday granted asylum by Spain after a seven-day shuttle between Barcelona, Copenhagen, Istanbul and Madrid airports.

March halted

Warsaw (AP) — About 1,000 people attempted to stage a pro-Solidarity march in the Baltic port city of Gdynia, but were prevented by riot police who detained about 20 demonstrators, an opposition activist reported.

Gas blast

Amsterdam (Reuters) — Three people were injured and three houses badly damaged when an explosion, thought to have been caused by a gas leak, rocked a residential neighbourhood.

Zambia toll

Lusaka (AFP) — Since June, 71 people have died from AIDS in Zambia and the number of cases has increased from 393 to 536 in the same period.

Aftermath of the Burkina Faso coup

Compaoré regime digs in for long siege

From Susan MacDonald, Ouagadougou

To approach the President of Burkina Faso's residence unannounced would be to invite danger. Since he came to power two months ago, during a coup in which his predecessor Captain Thomas Sankara died, Captain Blaise Compaoré has not lived in the presidential palace but in a strictly-guarded group of buildings behind it.

These "Council of Understanding" edifices, originally intended to house the headquarters of a regional economic union, have become a fortress, manned by soldiers with guns and heavy armour, and all access roads have been blocked.

The strain shows on the face of the "Blaise", as the 36-year-old head of state is known. He has only appeared once in public — at a ceremony two weeks ago to mark the unusual feat of getting the new ambassadors of the United States, the Soviet Union and France to present their credentials together.

He works in the building where Sankara, his closest friend, was shot dead with 12 of his advisers. Friends, enemies and mercenaries are all together: it is understood that prisoners taken during the October coup are being held there as well — perhaps in the

building where five veterans had taken up sentry duty the day I visited the President.

Dressed in an immaculately-pressed uniform and elegant tanned shoes, the President talked of Sankara, with whom he went to military college and then helped to bring to power, becoming his number two. Their characters were very different — Thomas the extrovert, Blaise the more reserved.

President Compaoré said: "In 1983, when we came in, the people were with us. They joined our fight for better education, better health and self-sufficiency. But Thomas confiscated the revolution and the people have suffered badly."

A month ago, the President said that a state funeral for his predecessor would be held because, whatever his defects, he had merited it. Now, asked when it will be, he said: "Why bring it all up again when people are beginning to forget? If they really wanted it, we would build him a chateau, but it depends on their wishes. We will, however, tidy up his grave."

A nationwide questionnaire has asked people their opinions on the four years of revolution, and the President



6 When you are President, everything falls on your shoulders. I would have preferred to do something else. But you never knew what the future holds

acknowledged that there have been requests for a return to civilian life.

He said of the powerful revolutionary committees, which have been a source of great discontent: "It is true they were full of young people, and village elders were left out.

Perhaps we could open them up to everyone."

The new Government contains both military and civilians, moderates and extreme left-wingers. "Its lack of definite ideology does pose considerable problems," the President said. "But then each faction is represented." The regime appears to be looking for a sense of direction that will please the people, combined with a sense of command that will satisfy the Army.

Asked about his feelings on the presidency, he said: "When you are President, everything falls on your shoulders. I would have preferred to do something else — but you never know what the future holds, and now I am here."

He insists that there is no problem within the armed forces, despite strong rumours to the contrary. The military uprising in Koudougou after Sankara's death was quashed.

President Compaoré said that 20 people died during and after the coup. Others put the figure at between 30 and 40, including the executions at Koudougou.

Moves have already begun to improve relations with other countries and to open up trade, which was almost banned under Sankara.

The President said: "We are going to stop insulting foreign

countries. At the end of the month, after the questionnaire results, I will be going round the neighbourhoods," referring to adjoining nations with whom relations have been strained, in some cases before the coup, and in others since.

Ties with the Ivory Coast have been difficult. Ghana has expressed shock and disapproval at Sankara's death; he and Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings were considered the two young revolutionaries of Africa.

The President says of the Ghanaians: "They have a short memory. They took out a President and shot him eight years ago, and we never said anything. Anyway, it was I who introduced Thomas to Rawlings. I sent him to Accra and Rawlings rang me and asked who he was. 'A friend of mine,' I replied."

President Compaoré seems to be digging in at his fortress. Neighbouring tenants have been forcibly evicted as security is stepped up.

Did he plan to stay there permanently? He looked at the drab office, and said: "I don't want to stay here — no, I don't want to stay here always." But it would seem that this depends on his ability to consolidate his position, once the new regime has published its aims.

Jayewardene declares war on Sinhalese extremists

From Vijitha Yapa, Matara, Sri Lanka

President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka has gone into the stronghold of the Sinhalese extremist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front) in the Southern province to declare that the Government was prepared to fight the organization "not by the ballot but by the bullet".

He announced that Sri Lanka's Army and police would be given immunity from prosecution in the struggle to eliminate terrorism.

The Marxist JVP, which has been proscribed since July, 1983, when it was blamed for anti-Tamil riots, is composed mainly of youths from the majority Sinhalese community. In violent opposition to the India-Sri Lanka pact on dealing with the island's ethnic conflict, they have killed more than 100 government officials and members of the ruling United National Party.

They want the Jayewardene-Gandhi pact abrogated and general elections held immediately.

President Jayewardene said that terrorism in Tamil areas was based on the demand for a separate state. But he could not understand terrorism in the south. He said public servants who did not support the anti-terrorism drive would be dismissed. However, local residents

said that the JVP has begun a new terror campaign.

"If we don't announce publicly that we have resigned, we will be killed," a UNP member said, "and if we announce it, the Army comes and gets us to swallow the posters we have put up, saying we are cowards."

"There has been an incredible change in the area," a UNP supporter said. "Until JVP we were proud to be associated with the UNP." Walls in many parts of the Southern province have Sinhalese slogans like "Death to traitors" and "First motherland".

The JVP has also appealed to students to publicize its cause. The JVP has a strong following in the universities and, as a result, many universities have been closed following clashes with police.

"The biggest problem is that we do not know who the JVP are," an army officer said, "while they know who we are."

In Matara, officials of the Inland Revenue officials have been threatened with death if they collect taxes. The growing demand for security has meant a 150-strong force is being trained in each electorate to protect UNP officials. These security men are

called the Green Tigers, green being the colour of the UNP. Opposition politicians have served warning, however, that this could lead to the formation of party militias, as occurred in the Philippines in the 1970s.

The type of weapons possessed by the JVP is thought not to be sophisticated, though there have been reports of talks between the JVP and Tamil guerrillas in the north on the purchase of better weapons.

While 35,000 Indian troops are trying to disarm the Tamil guerrillas in the Northern and Eastern provinces, President Jayewardene is expected to move more Sri Lankan troops to the south in coming weeks.

"When I come to the south in a month's time, terrorism should have ceased here," he told a meeting of government officials. But judging from the results so far, it may take longer than that.

● **COLOMBO:** President Jayewardene, addressing a meeting in the southern city of Galle, urged Buddhist monks not to support the outlawed JVP (Reuters reports). Some 200 yellow-robed Buddhist monks, said to belong to the JVP, were among those arrested in August during riots in protest against the peace accord.

SPECTRUM

Ringing the bells for the faithful

As the secondary target of the now-notorious Crockford's Preface, the Archbishop of York found himself accused of conspiracy and weak leadership. In his first major interview since the storm broke, he talked to Neil Lyndon about the accusations and the issues which the Church has still to resolve

The terms of the encounter were tightly defined. Dr John Habgood would discuss the substance of the Crockford's Preface by the late Dr Gareth Bennett. He would consider synodical, ecclesiastical and theological issues raised by Dr Bennett. He would not answer questions "about the hoo-ha in recent weeks" — which means, among other prohibitions, that he would not discuss any part he may have played himself in aggravating Dr Bennett's distress by exonerating the anonymous author of the Preface.

The Archbishop's press representative would attend the interview with a tape recorder. The Archbishop wished to see a draft of the article before publication to ensure accuracy.

Every time a question was asked, Dr Habgood shifted his very big frame in the uneasy armchair it was over-occupying in his study at Bishopthorpe Palace. He looked away, and paused. When he began to answer, in the muted accents of the church's present leadership, his speech was meticulously rounded into sentences and paragraphs. His concentrated manner was not to be shaken, even when asked to what extent he accepted the Crockford's picture of an Anglican Church not knowing what it is or what it believes in.

He paused. He looked away. He returned his hard eyes behind big spectacles to his questioner and said: "Only to a limited extent. Dr Bennett raised questions about the Anglican Communion, and they are real and important questions but not new ones. Dr Bennett refers to them as ecclesiastical questions, and this is to a large extent true. They do centre upon questions of authority, and a great deal of work on the question of authority has been done within the Anglican Communion in preparation for next year's Lambeth Conference."

"So the answer is, yes, he's dealing with real problems but they're familiar ones, they're intractable ones and I'm grateful for the historical analysis he's given. I wish he could have said more and given more by way of positive advice about how the problems he raises might be solved."

Dr Bennett left his reader with an impression of the Anglican clergy as being without role, uncertain of its faith, uneasy with its liturgy and burdened with a sense of powerlessness in the Synod compared with the House of Bishops. What did the Archbishop make of this?

"I think," he replied, "that's an exaggeration of what he says, and I think what he says is an exaggeration of reality. Let's take liturgy, for example. The clear impression I get is that the present liturgies of the church are very widely accepted. Obviously there are

exceptions; but I think the picture of an Alternative Service Book foisted on an unwilling church by trendy guitar-playing clergy is, in 95 per cent of parishes, rubbish."

"Most parishes have now settled down and the vast majority use the ASB. There are still, I am afraid, some who feel deprived of the Prayer Book, and the Prayer Book Society represents their interests and I think probably makes more noise than its numbers warrant."

"In terms of faith, there is, as there always has been, much discussion about how the Christian faith can best be expressed in ways which ring bells for the people of 1987. That doesn't mean that one is constantly trying to trim the faith to meet the demands of fashion, but it is fundamental to Christian faith that the heart of it is the doctrine of the Incarnation."

"What this means is God actually submitting Himself to

On women priests: 'My view is that the question of who is ordained is secondary to the question of what does ordination mean'

and revealing Himself in the conditions of human life; and it seems to me that you cannot take the doctrine of the Incarnation seriously without taking the world in which you are living seriously. In every age, the Church has tried to wrestle with its own world and express an eternal gospel in language and symbolism relevant to that world."

"This is quite an uncomfortable process and it's hardly surprising if some clergy feel a bit lost. It seems to me that one of the tasks of leadership is to help people face the questions which have to be faced and not to run away from them."

Dr Bennett had described the increasing diversity of liturgy in Anglican communion as a sign of incoherence.

"This is not wholly true. Liturgy always has to relate to the society in which it is performed and one of the problems about the missionary movement in the 19th century was that the missionaries took a Victorian Church of England worship, brass lecterns and all, and dumped them down in places like Nigeria. The African churches are now having to work very hard to find something which is authentically African; and surely they are right to do so."

As for Dr Bennett's view that the House of Clergy was dominated in Synod by the House of Bishops, Dr Habgood said: "There are problems in how a body as large and diverse as the Church of England can make up its mind, and we are in the middle of an extensive review

of the whole of the synodical process. In March, there will be published the report of the Infrastructure Review. I've no doubt that some radical proposals will emerge in March. I think it's terribly sad that this was never mentioned in the Preface; but it didn't fit with the point he was making."

"To give the impression that the Church has been drifting along with problems accumulating and nobody noticing or caring is nonsense. And I think some of us were a bit fed up that none of the thinking which is going on — and of which Dr Bennett was a part — came through in what he wrote."

"I think I've said enough publicly about the attack upon the Archbishop of Canterbury. I would only add that, where many people are saying, 'Why make such a fuss about the personal criticism which was such a small part of the Preface?', my attitude was that much of the prefatory argument spiralled down towards the charge of conspiracy and lack of integrity at the centre of the Church. That is why I reacted so sharply."

Discussing another recent controversy, the Church's view of homosexuality, the Archbishop was more circumspect. "In general terms," he said, "how one deals with major moral problems goes back to what I was saying about how a church which really believes in the Incarnation, and indeed which takes the doctrines of creation seriously, should deal with new knowledge. This lies at the heart of much of the disagreement."

"One of the sad features of the Catholic wing of the Church of England in recent years is that, while remaining very traditional, it has not found a strong theology which could help it to tackle the very pressing questions about the nature of creation which involves the whole question of how God and human beings and nature relate to one another. That is an enormous weakness."

"There is a very similar weakness on the Evangelical side. The Catholic tradition lays major emphasis on ecclesiology — on the Church. In the Evangelical tradition, the major emphasis is on the relationship between the Bible and direct experience."

"People often dismiss the Centre tradition as simply following fashion. That is not true. Within the tradition is a serious attempt to wrestle with the Incarnation and the Creation. And this has consequences when you begin to think about ethical implications. It's somewhat ironic that the first major shift in thinking on an ethical problem at the beginning of the 1960s was on the question of suicide, when knowledge about why people commit suicide began to affect people's moral judgements about the nature of suicide."

"The same process has been happening with homosexuality. As people have studied the



Dr John Habgood: "The repair job that needs to be done is not a solving of all of the problems, but a repairing of trust"

phenomenon and listened to what homosexuals say about themselves and their experience, they have begun to see that this is a much more complex matter than was previously understood."

Dr Bennett's Preface was partly interpreted as an attempt to obstruct Dr Habgood's path to Canterbury. It seemed reasonable, therefore, to ask him whether, if he were Archbishop of Canterbury, he would be able to reconcile the divided wings of the Church.

He answered: "I'll leave aside questions of me being Archbishop of Canterbury, which I think are not relevant and not proper. Given that there are deep differences of opinion in the Church, the proper role of leadership is to push as far as possible for a solution which will command assent; and that is why I have been in no hurry to push forward the question of the ordination of women to the point of the final decision. I think it has not been helpful that we are being pushed towards a decision now."

"The House of Bishops is doing some important theological work on the subject and ARCC [the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission] has this as a specific item on the agenda. I am very anxious that no decision should be made on the issue until this report has been received, and I think a good deal will depend on what it is able to say."

"My own view is that the question of who is ordained is secondary to the question: 'What does ordination mean?' And I do not believe that the ordination of women affects the meaning of ordination. It is simply a secondary matter."

"I think if a solid theological case can be made for that, which is seen to carry some weight in Catholic circles, then it would be possible to ordain women without a major division. If a large number of people and ARCC itself

comes to the conclusion that this is a primary matter touching the very nature of the priesthood, then I think many members of the Church of England will decide that this is a matter which touches too closely upon our traditional understanding of ourselves as part of the Catholic Church. And I have no intention of doing anything which will threaten that perception of the Church of England."

How did he respond to Dr Bennett's description of the liberal leadership of the

Church as lacking definite direction?

"You sometimes get the impression that all the conviction is on one side and in the middle are a lot of wimpish trends. The world is wrestling with huge problems of how to live peacefully and decently, and all these major human problems express themselves in their own form within a lesser community like the Church."

"I'm not afraid of controversy, of divisions, of

disagreements. What's important is the way one tackles them. The repair job that needs to be done is not a solving of all these problems but a repairing of trust, a demonstration of the willingness to listen to one another without which no solution is possible. If we can do that and do it in this almost humiliating way, openly and publicly, then I think we can do something for other people as well, in demonstrating a Christian way of working through these difficulties."

On faith:

'In every age, the Church has tried to wrestle with its own world and express an eternal gospel relevant to that world'

When the Church is itself divided, how should it address the secular world. There is a kind of wishfulness and expectation still attached to Christmas in many people's minds, and enormous numbers of people look for some kind of spiritual uplift, even if it's of a fairly elementary kind. There's a longing among many people who find it hard to make sense of the Christian faith nevertheless to regain some sort of spiritual values. To my mind, a Christmas message ought to try to address that longing.

"It is a message which is told in terms of a story. One can't abandon that story. If pressed on the question of what historical basis the story has, I would say [and here he paused for several seconds] some. But the chapters in Luke and Matthew are clearly written in mythological style. They are trying to express profound truth about the meaning of the life of Jesus in story terms. We cannot, at this stage, recover precisely what is historical and what isn't; and it doesn't matter."

Acknowledging that many people receive the story not in mythological terms but as an account of reality, he said: "This is the problem. That is why people do get het up when questions of this kind arise, and why one has to be careful how one answers them."

"Because, for many people, the story is the reality, and to seem to threaten the story is to threaten the reality, which is not the case. The doctrine of the Incarnation is not based upon Christmas stories. The stories are a demonstration of the meaning of the Incarnation but they are stories which are very precious and I don't want to touch them. What one needs to say is that one is talking about stories. Those who want to take this quite literally need not be disturbed; those who understand how stories are used to convey truth need not be dismayed."

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1987 IS HERE AGAIN.

SPECIAL ISSUE
Newsweek

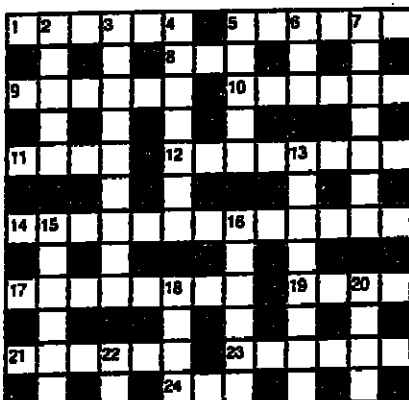
IMAGES 87



ON SALE NOW GET TO GRIPS WITH IT.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1449

- ACROSS
1 For ever (6)
5 NCO insignia (6)
8 Moose (3)
9 Swiss political division (6)
10 Assault (6)
11 Retail premises (4)
12 Sin (8)
14 Chest crucifix (8,5)
17 Excise tax exempt (4)
19 Poet's inspiration (4)
21 VIP (6)
23 Insight (6)
24 Estuary ridge (3)
25 Gradually (6)
26 State of agitation (6)



- DOWN
2 Restraining rope (5)
3 Hostile feeling (9)
4 Legislator (7)
5 Dodge work (5)
6 Split (3)

- 7 Winged horse (7)
13 Pre-eminent (9)
15 Learned (7)
16 Downwind (7)
18 Thomas Arnold's school (5)
20 Strainer (5)
22 Repurposed adept (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1448

ACROSS: 1 Discus 5 Mite 8 Peaky 9 Extract 11 Croupier
13 Aged 15 Ruth Ellis 18 Iles 19 Firmware 22 Soprano 23 Regal
24 Levy 25 Siding
DOWN: 2 Idaho 3 Coy 4 Siege Perilous 5 Mute 6 Tear gas
7 Space 10 Tidy 12 Pate 14 Slim 15 Relapse 16 Bias 17 Belle
20 Argon 21 Zany 23 Rod

Pieces on Earth



In a troubled city this Christmas, the market for toy rifles has, significantly, collapsed. In a communist city, "Santa" has to pass a written exam. In a capitalist, Christian, city, school nativity plays are constitutionally forbidden. In a holy city, a spiritual leader sits down to red beetroot soup. In an Asian city, the right connections mean Norfolk turkey and sage and onion stuffing. And in the city where it all began... Christmas around the world, tomorrow in *The Times*

THE TIMES DIARY

Less work for Willie?

As Lord Whitelaw completes his convalescence, Whitehall continues to buzz with rumours of how the running of the Upper House might be helped along if he takes a lesser role. The latest suggestions are that the Lords' front bench should be beefed up to relieve some of his workload. Additions could include Stephen Sherbourne, who earlier this month resigned as the Prime Minister's political secretary and was replaced by 28-year-old John Whittingdale. Sherbourne, who has been described by commentators as unflappable and discreet, has gone into the City, having reportedly turned down the job of chief administrator at Conservative Central Office. The second Lord's nominee is Steve Norris, the former Oxford East MP who lost his marginal seat in the last election. He has since been busy setting up the national crime prevention programme for Douglas Hurd at the Home Office, but he may demur from elevation, as it is thought he wants another Commons seat.

Want to buy a last-minute Christmas present? A clip of paper shoved through the letter box of a colleague in Fulham offers to deliver copies of *Spectator* at £20 each, saying to ring "Robert" any time on a north London number. Not, I suspect, the sort of entrepreneurial effort the Prime Minister would favour.

De-merger man

I don't know whether it was political savvy or vanity that prompted David Owen, who is gloating over the so-called Alliance's merger plan problems, to say the other day that he was not surprised he was responsible for marriage breakups. He reckons that in SDP homes where couples are divided the women are Owenites and the men are for merger.

Sleighed 'em

Christmas festivities may have been taken a little too far in Finland, the traditional home of Santa Claus. Local businessmen decided to promote tourism by arranging reindeer-shooting for the wealthy, but the organizers made the mistake of inviting media representatives to the promotion shoot. The enterprise was banned after horrified Finns saw inaccurate and bloody shooting on their television screens. Ironically, Finnish herds had earlier escaped the worst effects of the Chernobyl fallout, because they graze further north than Norwegian and Swedish herds, slaughtered in their thousands.

For all those dying to know who the PM is entertaining over Christmas, one prominent Conservative let it be known at his own party the other day. Propped up prominently on the mantelpiece, amid a clutch of invitations, one with a red crest was clearly visible from the Thatchers for Boxing Day at Chesham. The recipient... J. Archer.

Plague ploy

The Americans are developing a new secret weapon for the post-INF world, according to Libya's Colonel Gaddafi. In a speech in Tripoli he claimed that Washington is seeking to dominate Egypt by invading it with mice - 12 million of them. Either he has been watching too many Tom and Jerry cartoons or is just taking the mickey.

BARRY FANTONI



'I had no idea she worked for MIS'

Pillar to post

Nothing will dampen Billerica MP Theresa Gorman's enthusiasm for privatization. When a parcel - posted by a newsletter, *Business Informer* - arrived at the Wiltshire offices of the Alliance of Small Firms, of which she is chairman, it contained not 500 issues of the paper, but a bundle of HMO diaries. Copies of the *Informer's* next newsletter (which included a diatribe against the Post Office) were sent via private carrier. But that lot too went missing, and its whereabouts are still unknown. Mrs Gorman, who is introducing a 10-minute bill in the Commons next month calling for an end to the PO's monopoly on letters, says this saga convinces her of the need for more competition. "I may even set something up myself," says the tireless Tory businesswoman. How about carrier pigeons?

PHS

Ian Murray reports from the stone-throwing heart of the Gaza Strip riots

Ansar Two: academy of Arab hate

Sited on one of the most beautiful golden sand beaches in the Mediterranean, Ansar Two might have been a holiday camp. Instead this old army barracks has become the crucible of Gaza, a university of anger and hatred where fearlessness and rebellion are the major subjects.

It was just over a year ago that it received its biggest influx of "students". As the main youth detention centre for the occupied Gaza Strip it was packed with teenagers who had been given short sentences of three or four months for stone-throwing and rioting in disturbances triggered by the shooting of two Bir Zeit university students from Gaza.

Inside the barbed wire perimeter these youngsters learnt a camaraderie they had never known. Drawn from all parts of the Strip, they made contact with like-minded people. They are a third generation of refugees living in Gaza. As Giorgio Giacomelli, the UNRWA (Relief and Works Agency) Commissioner General put it last week: "They are bored with the situation and nourished with hate. They have lost hope, thrown down their books and picked up a stone."

They have lost hope for many reasons. They have lost hope in learning because their parents dutifully went to school and never achieved political freedom. Palestinian doctors, mechanical engineers, dentists and scientists in Gaza often work as waiters, agricultural labourers or road-sweepers in Israel.

They have lost hope in the Arab world. The Arab summit in Amman last month relegated the Palestinian problem to the sidelines, with Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, left kicking his heels. They have lost hope in the superpowers. This month's summit in Washington did not even discuss the Middle East. Viewed from the growing squalor of Jabaliya refugee camp a super-power summit looks irrelevant.

They have lost hope in the PLO. Cut off from the West Bank by a large slice of Israel and from Egypt by the Sinai desert and by what they see as Egyptian indifference, the young refugees view Arafat as an old globe-trotting diplomat

whose treatment in Amman proved how worthless he has become.

They never had any hope in their negotiated settlement. In Gaza the refugees outnumber the local people. If Gaza were ever to become part of a divided Palestine along with the West Bank there would be nowhere for the people to go. Their homes, like their hearts, are in the destroyed villages of the coastal plain rather than in the camps.

They have found some hope in Islam. Just up the road from Ansar Two is a mosque. Once tiny, the old green-domed minaret juts out of the roof of what looks like a modern warehouse, which has been built enclosing the ancient building to give enough space for the congregation. It is the mosque, they say, of Islamic Jihad.

They found hope from the hang-gliders. When a Palestinian aboard a motorized one managed to cut through Israel's northern defences last month, land by an army camp and kill six after putting the guard to flight, they sensed a rare moment of elation and triumph. It destroyed the image of the Superman soldier even more effectively than the long withdrawal from Lebanon.

Most of all they have found hope in their very anger and hatred. Western journalists, who might perhaps be Jews, have felt the power of that in the past fortnight when encountering the crowds. The eyes burn into you out of faces so young and so determined.

The hatred has now boiled over. This particular trail of violence goes back to October 1, when a car with three Gazans aboard ran into a road block and they all died in a



Refugee camp children stone Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip

burst of Israeli fire. Rumour spread that at least one survived long enough to reveal under torture the names of Islamic Jihad members. Five days later four others of the group were ambushed and killed along with an Israeli Shin Bet counter-intelligence officer. That was followed by a round-up of 50 group members and by a deportation order against the local spiritual leader of the Jihad, Sheikh Aziz Odeh.

All these events were marked by demonstrations, with the Israelis responding firmly yet trying to keep a low profile when possible, in line with new orders to make the occupation feel less repressive. But the stone-throwing increased and the deeply hated 2,500 Israeli settlers had to travel in convoy for safety. They complain that the army was being too soft. In mid-November one settler killed a 17-year-old schoolgirl after his car

was attacked by stone-throwers. Death was answered by death, with the stabbing of an Israeli salesman in Gaza town followed by a huge security clamp-down. Two days later, the camps seething with anger about the vigour of the Israeli murder hunt, there was a road accident involving an Israeli-driven truck. Then the Gaza revolt began in earnest.

The story spread that the Israeli truck driver had deliberately smashed his semi-trailer into two cars, killing four Gazan workers and injuring nine others, one fatally. The driver was rumoured to be a relative of the Israeli who had been stabbed, and in Jabaliya camp a demonstration started.

The demonstrations have been going on ever since, with each reported brutality and killing inspiring a new protest somewhere else. The trouble quickly spread to the West Bank, with an awful rivalry building up as to which area had the biggest death toll. Inevitably in Gaza the figures are higher, because the youngsters are more desperate, more motivated by hatred and more fearless.

In Gaza too the Israelis have a much greater security problem. In the West Bank even the most militant camp at Balata on the outskirts of Nablus is relatively simple to isolate and control. But in Gaza a protest can break out spontaneously anywhere and at any time. It is impossible to patrol massively everywhere. Even with the huge reinforcements just sent into the Strip, the local population outnumbers the troops by around 110 to one. Inevitably the troops more often fear for their lives and open fire.

This is also because the Israelis do not have the equipment or training to deal with riots. Most of them are scarcely older than the youngsters they are trying to restrain.

In all that has been happening the PLO has played the role of a Johnny-come-lately. This has not been, as Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister likes to say, an affair orchestrated from outside. Nor has it been something inspired from above by Islam. It has happened from within, and the "graduates" of Ansar Two are in command.

Tony Blair

A government deaf to protest

The parliamentary term has finally ended, though toasted more in vitriol than in Christmas spirit. Question-time assumed such an atmosphere of unremitting ferocity that MPs seemed to be called and dispatched like witnesses in the trial of the Knave of Hearts. "Give your evidence," said the King. "And don't be nervous or I'll execute you on the spot."

At least part of the growing hostility between the government's supporters and the opposition, including some Tory rebels, derives from the feeling that the government is stepping over the line between the exercise of power and the abuse of it.

Increasingly, it is exhibiting not just a conviction in its own capacity to govern well, which is natural, but an assumption of some divine right to rule, which is dangerous; not simply a failure to see the other point of view, but a reluctance to recognize the legitimacy of another view.

At a peripheral level this is not helped by the Prime Minister's unyielding temperament. But at the heart of it lies the arrogance of power unchecked. So when doctors and nurses complain about pressure in the National Health Service, the government first denies the problem's existence, and when that becomes untenable, calls in the lobby journalists to vilify the complainers.

This attitude finds its most obvious expression in the poll tax. It would be sensible to debate the rating system, with the poll tax just one competing proposal. In fact, the argument is now turning less on alternative ways of administering the rates than on fundamental questions about the nature of society.

The government shows no sign yet of even realizing the root objection to the poll tax: that it takes little or no account of the ability to pay. Many of the well-off will gain additional wealth, while to poor families the cost may mean the difference between hardship and real poverty.

Advocates of the poll tax seem to find consolation in the fact that much of local government finance comes from central government, itself financed by a progressive form of taxation; as if fairness in one part of the tax system somehow compensated for unfairness in another.

In any event, it is plain that many of the government's own supporters find the poll tax, at least as currently framed, repugnant. Yet the government's response is utterly uncompromising: it has its majority and will use it. It says it will look at any amendment put forward; but such a gesture is useless unless it concedes the principle upon which any amendment will be based; namely that the better-off should pay more than the worse-off.

A facet of the same behaviour has been the government's legal action over the BBC series, *My Country, Right or Wrong*. If anything underlines its bur-

geoning incapacity to act reasonably, it is this.

The programme is, by consent, a rational and serious investigation by highly respected journalists into the issues raised by *Spycatcher*; it includes interviews with former Lord Chancellors, ministers and others, all of impeccable patriotism and loyalty; it was cleared by the D-notice committee. More, there is no suggestion that the programme disclosed any information harmful to national security. The government's sole contention is that since former employees of the security services - in breach of their lifelong obligation of confidentiality - took part in the programme, that in itself jeopardizes national security.

This case contains all the characteristics common to a government that is over-reaching itself. Everything is justified on the basis of a principle pursued with a manic single-mindedness, irrespective of the original purpose it was intended to serve. The principle is that employees of the security services maintain their duty of confidentiality. But surely the only purpose of that principle is to keep secret those matters whose secrecy is necessary to our security. The test should therefore be: is the disclosure of, or discussion about these matters, injurious to our security today? If not, then censorship can have no conceivable justification in the public interest.

The case also confirms the unworthy change in government tactics to silence its employees. After Poulton, it dare no longer risk a trial under the Official Secrets Act, where the common sense of the jury will distinguish between the interests of the nation and those of the government; instead it now takes civil action before a judge.

However, the real tell-tale sign is the whimsical inconsistency of it all; some programmes are stopped, others allowed; some books published, others banned; some employees are prosecuted, others talk with impunity. The newspapers report casually that action against the BBC was taken after a diary in an altered Downing Street to the programme, hardly anyone bothering to remark either on the absurdity of an early warning system that requires the PM to read the gossip columns, or the implications for the supposed independence of the law officers.

Of course, the best check on arrogant government is effective opposition. With a government majority of over 100, this is not easy, and is not helped, incidentally, when excellent speakers from the Labour front bench, as on the education and poll tax bills, are given unequal treatment with those of Tory dissidents. But it is vital. At stake is the enforcement of a basic requirement of our democracy: the responsibility of government to listen.

The author is Labour MP for Sedgefield.

however... Henry Stanhope

Advent of the turbo-shopper

So many Christmas shoppers went to Regent Street this year that police introduced one-way traffic on the pavements. People had to walk north up one side of the street, then cross over to go south - and no doubt be clamped for obstruction if they paused to look into a shop window.

I heard about this experiment second-hand, since I would not personally venture into Regent Street just before Christmas, not even if the Three Wise Men had been seen at the myrrh counter in Dickens & Jones. But it sounded like a dangerous precedent to me.

What happens when you ease the flow of traffic is that people become obsessed with going too fast. Look at our motorways, where you have to leave out of the way of the royal family, driving to and from Gloucestershire. But excessive speed on the motorways is at least controlled by the law (more or less) and covered after a fashion by the highway code. Pedestrians are quite undisciplined.

There is no doubt that women are worst. Egalitarianism has acted on the female of the species in much the same way as red meat on a cruising shark. A young woman wheeled a shopping trolley over my foot the other day then glared at me for getting in the way.

Now, at least in the West End of London these days nobody can usually move. This might defeat the object of going there, but it tends to guarantee your personal safety. After all, the one thing about a traffic jam is that nobody gets run down. A flash of clear pavement in Regent Street, on the other hand, and I for one would not like to be responsible for the consequences, as the army of umbrellas charges forward.

Having gone this far, I'm afraid the only practical solution is to lay out a slow lane on the left for prams and old ladies with shopping bags, a cruising strip in the middle for steady walkers and an overtaking lane for the jet set.

Slip lanes will be needed to enable people to enter, say, Austin Reed, or emerge from the Café Royal after lunch, making sure they give appropriate hand signals and avoid cutting in too abruptly. Speed restrictions should be in-

troduced outside Hamleys, to control fast-moving parents before Christmas, and so on...

One could of course go the whole hog and make the length of Regent Street one-way. But then somebody in Liberty's who had forgotten to buy some cotton wool to Boots would have to turn along Oxford Street, then walk down Charing Cross Road and Shaftesbury Avenue to get back.

Of course you will always get some idiot fouling things up - emerging, say, from Garrard's and turning left, creating a dangerous rush-hour contra-flow. But hopefully the Met can take care of that.

I was proceeding up Regent Street in a northerly direction, your worship," says the police constable, "when I saw the defendant come out from the said premises and turn south. He was in collision with a fellow pedestrian, a lady in the slow lane carrying a Christmas tree, who was knocked to the ground by the impact and suffered minor injuries to her lower branches. On apprehending the accused, I smelt alcohol on his breath and asked him to accompany me to West End Central where 'e was charged with walking the wrong way down a one-way street. He said in reply..."

There are already signs of indiscipline at pedestrian crossings. Instead of striding straight across the road, a number of would-be troublemakers try to cross on a diagonal to save time. The result is a kind of spin-wheel - that complicated manoeuvre performed by the massed guards bands when trooping the colour. The only difference is that the guards spend a lot of time practising and more or less know where they're going. This does not necessarily apply in the West End, where the confusion can be not only time-consuming but downright dangerous.

I personally would prefer to install toll gates, with people paying to enter the West End at peak periods. Or perhaps we could take turns - the A-Ds one day, the E-Ks the next and so on. Of course we could always try banning people altogether and having all-motorized precincts. I have a sneaking suspicion that it might just be safer.



Is the intruder really welcome at Gatwick? Many B-Cal staff resent the takeover, and they and their new masters face a difficult transition period

A traditional British Caledonian whisky party, scheduled for the first week in January, will be the last time the tartan-uniformed girls from Gatwick have a chance to show off the independence synonymous with their distinctive uniforms.

Even before the haggis is piped in, senior managers from their arch-rival British Airways will have moved into their glass-and-steel headquarters near Crawley to begin the process of eradicating everything that set them apart and so nearly achieved the aim of creating a genuine second force to compete with the "big brother" at Heathrow.

Why B-Cal failed so completely, and ended up by being swallowed by the self-styled world's favourite airline, will be argued over for months to come. But the immediate problem for the staff is what happens to them. The man who will be responsible for bringing the staff of the two airlines together as a working unit will be Peter Owen, the British Airways Director of Operations.

Since the proposal to link the two companies was first put five months ago, Owen has been heading a small team charged with setting up new working practices to take the merged airline into the 1990s. A major handicap in the past two months, while the rival bid from SAS has been considered, has been that he has been barred from examining the detailed documents showing the internal workings of B-Cal.

Indeed, many of the managers he had already spoken to, if only briefly, were themselves less than enthusiastic about talking to the airline which might still have been their main rival had SAS won an increasingly bitter battle.

Owen will now have to move quickly, not only to get to grips with the way B-Cal has been run but to overcome the distrust of British Airways that has built up among many of his new staff over many years and which turned into outright hostility over the last few weeks as department after department backed the SAS bid. British Airways, they decided, was certainly not their favourite airline.

But today they are part of it and will

As the negotiations on merger with B-Cal end, Harvey Elliott assesses the gigantic administrative challenge that is just beginning for Lord King and British Airways

have many anxious questions. The pilots will want to know how two completely separate career structures can possibly be linked. Will a first officer in British Caledonian now qualify for promotion to captain in British Airways? If he does what of the first officer in BA who was ready to step across to the left hand seat of his Boeing 747 and now finds he is being leap-frogged by someone from another airline? It is a potential minefield for Peter Owen and his team.

Other British Airways teams are going to have to work rapidly to find buyers for British Caledonian's fleet of ageing 1-11 jets, whose noisy engines, although still technically within the law, are hardly the best advertisement for the world's favourite airline. They may in the short term be moved to domestic routes or to "thin" European routes simply to provide a feed of passengers for the international flights. But they will have to go, preferably by the spring when B-Cal is due to take delivery of its new fleet of Airbus A320 jets.

The A320 crews, already under training in Toulouse, had hoped to be flying to Africa or the Middle East on regular scheduled services. Now they are almost certain to find themselves moved to short haul European flights, domestic shuttle services or even charter operations.

The Civil Aviation Authority and BAA, the former British Airports Authority, will be asked to allow the B-Cal flights to Saudi Arabia and Tokyo which now fly into Gatwick to operate from Heathrow instead.

Within the next few weeks, every aircraft in the B-Cal fleet will be

repainted, and every member of the staff measured for a new British Airways uniform. Well before the summer British Caledonian will have begun to disappear.

Its name will still remain, and the airline will be flying from Gatwick too. But the name will be painted only on the side the Boeing 737s, 747s and the Tristars now flying package holiday-makers to the sun on behalf of British Airways, a move likely to infuriate the staff of Airtours. They have been proud of their links with British Airways and will not lightly accept that they should be shoe-horned into a new role, carrying on the name of an airline which, to them, became a failure which had to be rescued.

Lord King of Wartnaby, British Airways' abrasive chairman, always the favourite to win the battle for B-Cal, and who will soon be winning other battles to swallow other airlines, has made it plain that the 2,000 or so redundancies in the merged airline will be shared equally between Gatwick and Heathrow. He expects, and may well get, a massive over-subscribing to his offer of a golden handshake to those at Gatwick who want to leave.

Along with some of the older aircraft, Caledonian House - which Lord King typified as big, sumptuous and ugly on his first visit there - will almost certainly be sold so that the office staff will have to move too. Many of them will be reluctant to leave Sussex and they too may opt for redundancy. The chances are that most of the job losses will in fact be in Gatwick.

Sir Adam Thomson says he will remain for the time being, to fight for the staff who have given him loyalty over the years and to ensure, as far as possible, that they are treated fairly. But he will have little say in what becomes of the airline he created 26 years ago.

Already there are vacant offices in Caledonian House, which now echoes the hollow old phrases of creating a second force airline capable of taking on the world. For the men and women who were proud to be Caledonian and who now wait to hear what their new employer has in store for them, the annual whisky party will be a well attended wake.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Sex from the 14th century

My distinguished colleague on *The Financial Times*, Chris Dunkley, recently complained that there was not enough sex on television. His plea was not for blue movies after *East-Enders*, but for a little tasteful erotica in the newly available two small hours, nothing raunchy, you understand, but sophisticated, cultural and full of profound truths.

In answer to this cry comes the *Decameron* (Channel 4), hot from the 14th century and translated into adroit rhyming couplets by Roger Woddis.

Boccaccio's original cycle of 10 tales is said to have been told over 10 days to raise spirits of the population during a plague in Florence in 1348; we are to be regaled with a selected six to keep us cheerful during Christmas week.

Let anyone should switch on at midnight in search of sexy romps, let me make it clear that the *Decameron* is a cartoon series, and a very pretty one. The figures have been modelled on the grotesque miniatures which cavort in the margins of illuminated manuscripts. The technique has been adapted from that used to move ancient shadow puppets, which allows for a range of movement far more complex than modern cartoon animation.

In addition, the figures and their settings were exquisitely coloured and elaborately designed by the director. The whole effect was charming, and, thank heaven, not in the least raunchy. In fact, it was all in the best possible taste.

So was *North and South Book Two* (ITV), the sequel to one of the year's better mini series set during the Civil War. But cannonades, fist fights and seductions followed each other so fast that there was scarcely time to slip out and make a mint julep.

Celia Brayfield

The faces that are painted with pain

GALLERIES

Franz Xaver Messerschmidt/
Arnulf Rainer
ICA

El Dia de los
Muertos
Serpentine

Masks/From the
Domain of the Raven
Canada House

Macbeth/David
Leverett
Redfern

Agitprop Porcelain
Ekstein and Mazure

No doubt in the 18th century a visit to Bedlam would have seemed like a jolly, seasonal entertainment for Christmas. Perhaps the "Character Heads" of Franz Xaver Messerschmidt do not now strike us as quite so apposite to the time of year. However, it is certainly fascinating to be given our first opportunity in Britain to see these

classics of psychotic art at the ICA (until February 21; closed December 24, 25 and 26). One might wonder what they are doing in an Institute of Contemporary Art, since they date from 1770-1783, but clearly the excuse is the other half of the show, a series of photographs of Messerschmidt's heads "overdrawn" by Arnulf Rainer in his familiar style.

Rainer must find some affinity between himself and neurotic/psychotic art, since this is not the first time he has undertaken to annotate this kind of thing: a few years ago he made an exhibition based on the work of the painter Louis Soutter. In the case of Messerschmidt it is not clear that the originals need Rainer's intervention: most of his scribbles on the photographs, though they do take on a certain disturbing life of their own, seem to be rather gilding the lily. The point about Messerschmidt is that he so clearly represents the dreams of reason — the moment when all the reasonable analysis, the immaculate classical training, started to go sour. There is, in fact, some argument about exactly how crazed Messerschmidt was when he sculpted the heads: he continued to carry out ordinary portrait commissions alongside his more private work, though his whims and oddities had already lost him his official teaching positions.

Just as Blake has come to seem a lot less strange and isolated as more work has been done on his sources and his relation to half-forgotten strains of 18th-century thought, so



Psychotic art: "The Sneezer/Crying/Twitching" from the Arnulf Rainer overdrawings of Messerschmidt

Messerschmidt seems to make a lot more sense in the light of renewed interest in phrenology, classical textbooks on the facial expression of the emotions and so on. Even so, there remains an irreducible weirdness about these contorted heads, which have sometimes been supposed to be self-portraits. So much of their force resides in the unexpected combination of an elegant, classical finish with the extreme and peculiar subject-matter. Rainer cannot better that by destroying the nice balance and pushing the images towards more overtly expressionistic exaggeration.

Somehow akin, as a cheery Christmas show, is the Serpentine

Gallery's exploration of Mexican folk-art connected with *El Dia de los Muertos* (until January 10; closed December 24-27 and New Year's Day). The main reason for this show at this time is presumably the proximity of the Diego Rivera show at the Hayward, since some of his most familiar imagery derives from the masks and decorated figures of the Mexican Death Day: indeed, the show features a large display of life-size figures arranged to echo a major Rivera painting. Despite this, and the ubiquity of skulls and skeletons, the show is in fact amazingly pretty and colourful and playful. The folk artists included — who are all absolutely contemporary, by the

way — seem to have very few hang-ups or morbid fears of death: what could be more cheerful than the skeletal band happily banging its drums and blowing its wind instruments?

Infinitely more formal and serious, the Masks from the Pacific North-West on show at the Canada House Cultural Centre Gallery until March 4 have a powerfully monumental effect. Closely bound up with the rituals of Indian life and religion which can really only be hinted at in the notes on the show, they nevertheless need no annotation at all to make their effect on the visitor: the bird-images alternate with what we might see (possibly quite in-

correctly) as devil-masks, sometimes oddly reminiscent of Japanese *kabuki* masks and make-up. The forms are strong and simple, the coloured patterns boldly abstracted, and the overall effect is haunting. Along with the main show is, until December 31, a smaller show called *From the Domain of the Raven*, which fills in the details with a wider variety of small artefacts from the same North-Western tribes.

Closer to home, the Redfern Gallery has a show intriguingly invoking a Forties British attempt to summon up on stage an image at once primitive, savage and highly sophisticated: the designs by Michael Ayrton and John Minton for Gielgud's 1942 production of *Macbeth* at the Piccadilly Theatre. Though the artists worked on close collaboration, each seems to have assumed total responsibility for his particular areas of the design. And one can see at a glance how different in their interests and techniques these two Neo-Romantics were.

Upstairs at the Redfern there is the first London show for several years by David Leverett (also till Christmas Eve and then January 4-6). Leverett is a landscape artist with a strong symbolic kick to his work. The present series sometimes suggests Italian Futurism in its kaleidoscopic effects of form and colour, as though the constituents of the landscape are chopped up and reshuffled to expose their psychological strata. Sometimes, again, the effect is fiery and apocalyptic, as though John Martin had suddenly decided to go abstract, or Goya had got no further with some of his more diabolic works than to paint in the background. Leverett is a real eccentric, but a gifted one.

Finally, just time to catch before Christmas Eve (though at least most of the works will still be on display in the New Year) a remarkable little show of Russian Agitprop Porcelain Plates at Ekstein and Mazure, 90 Jermyn Street. The styles of these immediately post-Revolutionary commemorative plates vary from rich and romantic fairy-tale effects to starkly modernistic patterning with lettering and abstract shapes in the Constructivist manner. The show is derived from a Scandinavian collection acquired on the spot in the Twenties and never since seen. Now it fits in very nicely with the increasing flow of long-disapproved Soviet avant-garde art appearing from its hiding-places in the stores of Russian museums.

John Russell Taylor

CONCERT

Beauty marred by the banal

BBCSO/Davis
Festival Hall

There are orchestral showpieces and there are orchestral showpieces, and the three that constituted this programme went from the sublime to the ridiculous and back again.

The work in the middle was Respighi's *The Pines of Rome*, easy on ear and intellect, and guaranteed to elicit an animal roar from the audience after its thunderously banal finish. Even so, Andrew Davis conducted a performance into which the BBC Symphony Orchestra pitched themselves wholeheartedly and with all their expertise on display.

Why, though, drag this empty piece into an otherwise delectable programme? It certainly came as a rude shock after the waves of subtle, though precisely lit, colourings of Debussy's *Nocturnes*. In that work Davis demonstrated that, in spite of his often over-generous gesturing, he actually exercises the finest

control, rhythmic and emotional, over the orchestra.

Every section responded with keen but mellow playing, the woodwind principals and, in particular, the *cor anglais* soloist, Jane Marshall, making especially affecting contributions, while the female voices of the BBC Singers heightened the allure of Debussy's magic, mysterious and vivid in the final movement, "Sirenes".

After the interval there was Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloé*, where again the BBCSO was in fine form. The woodwind dove-tailed their lines exquisitely, with the strings sure but sweet and the brass rounded and secure even when playing softly and high in the register. Best of all, the score was shaped with infinite care, so that musical incident followed musical incident as though each really did belong in the vast plan.

Stephen Pettitt



Firm control: Andrew Davis

Babes in Birnam Wood

THEATRE

Babes in the
Wood
Duchess

This is not the £1 million job with Cannon and Ball on view from tonight at the Palladium, but the Players' Theatre in temporary exile from Villiers Street, beside and beneath Charing Cross Station, where their base is being swallowed up in a redevelopment scheme.

They have happily found a refuge just across Catherine Street from the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Here they continue as before: they have loyally toasted Queen Victoria for the past 40 years and it is always Christmas 1898.

Calculated nostalgia is not to everyone's taste; a little of it suits most palates on occasion, so long as the mocking spirit of the genre is original and not modern. The survival of the Players' Theatre is largely due to the recognition of this critical distinction, for so much of their material pokes fun at the solemnities of the day that to poke fun at the pokers would set the whole delicate edifice crumbling.

Fortunately for us, Victorian solemnities included opera and Shakespeare, happily still around and allowing us to go on relishing both the target and the dart.

This year's burlesque pantomime, subtitled "The Good Little Fairy Birds", is by H.J. Byron, master of the grotesque pun. Where the Palladium Babes are lost in Sherwood Forest, Byron puts them in a famous wood south of the border and mixes the story up with *Macbeth*, both the dramatic and the operatic variety. Nothing if not eclectic, known to the babes as Amity Macassar — goes mad, the scene shifts instantly to Lammemor.

The entire dialogue is in rhymed couplets, like very early Shakespeare but funnier. As an example, here is Babe Tom with his sister: "These paths are like the maze at Hampton Court, And Sal, I am amazed: I am Tom Caught".

If the puns let up, we have alliteration instead, as when Alwynne Taylor's rich and creamy Lady Beth dismisses her husband (John Rutland) as a "pure pussy milkop". Miss Taylor dominates the action as a commanding villainess, her tartan itself in innumerable contrast to her purple and puce shot silk.

The fairy birds are disappointing and the babes are concealed not under leaves but behind side-stepping tree trunks. However, the players move adroitly on the cluttered stage and the parody has neat direction, as always by Reg Woolley.

Performances continue until February 28, Tuesday to Sunday



Parody: Catherine McCord as Queen of the Fairy Birds.

Jeremy Kingston

JAZZ

Guitars in the Django mould

Boulou and Elios
Ferre
Almeida Theatre

Relentlessly eclectic, the gypsy guitarists Boulou and Elios Ferre set the pattern for this recital in the first number, a lengthy discursive piece which opened with a stately baroque theme. Shortly afterwards the spirit of Django Reinhardt entered the proceedings, spiced with ever more complex chords and even a few bars of two Miles Davis compositions, "Milestones" and the nursery rhyme-like "Jean Pierre". There was, in short, something to please listeners of all persuasions.

The brothers are part of the new generation of gypsy virtuosi which includes the prodigious Bireli Lagrene. Apart from appearance on the jazz circuit they give regular performances in Paris and along the Riviera.

Boulou, elder of the two, gave his first concert at the age

of nine, and four years later was ready to record an album of Charlie Parker classics. Indeed, his passion for Parker's music was evident here in the be-bop flourishes and the occasional references to the theme of "Ornithology".

The pair enjoy an almost telepathic relationship, swapping lead roles and executing abrupt changes of tempo. As an exercise in technical bravado, the rendition of "Cherokee" was perhaps the highlight of the performance. Taking the melody by the scruff of the neck, they shook it to pieces in a flurry of sixteenth notes and interweaving harmonies.

Elios's solo, barely audible at first, flirted with blues licks before building to a climax, while his brother alternated between congenial four-to-the-bar rhythm support and audacious bursts of flamenco.

The display was occasionally overwhelming in the more extended pieces, when the brothers succumbed to the temptation to run through the whole catalogue of tricks. On balance, however, the improvisation was restrained and crystal clear, each note carefully chosen.

The gypsy heritage came into the open in the encore, in a traditional song rendered in chants and explosive arpeggios. Before that, the brothers paid homage to Reinhardt with a delicately judged reading of his most memorable tune, "Nuages".

Clive Davis

ROCK

More punk than panto

The Damned/Pop
Will
Eat Itself
Brixton Academy

Making a unique contribution to the panto season, the Damned appeared in front of a backdrop bearing a gothic landscape illustration of a graveyard.

Stalking the boards in a billowing black PVC frock coat, the vocalist Dave Vanian looked like a vampire villain from the *Batman* series as he led the quintet through a shockingly lackadaisical set of long-winded progressive pop that betrayed every maxim for which the band once stood, but its penchant for rank amateurism.

In 1976-77, as the first punk group to release a single, and an album, and reach the charts, and tour America, the Damned represented, with jolting panache, the ignored mood that was sweeping through rock. Now into its 12th year, and enjoying new heights of commercial success, the band displayed even less relevance to current musical developments than that evinced by those quaint pictures of punks now offered as postcard mementoes of London.

Rat Scabies, the other remaining original member, engaged in busy and frequently witless flurries round his drum kit during a set which permitted all the best of the early material except "Love Song".

The opening act, Pop Will Eat Itself, a quartet from Stourbridge, captured a mood far more akin to that abroad during the heady days of the Damned's prime. The Poppies' trick was to place pop-metal guitar riffs of a roughly Marc Bolan vintage in a taped hip hop rhythm track environment. Clint Mansell and Graham "Sir Charles" Crabb then rapped or sang their way through a succession of irreverent rhymes, while wheeling around the stage in an odd parody of the moves of both American hip hop stars and Birmingham head-bangers.

This tragicomic display of musical pillage left an audience of hardened reactionaries somewhat nonplussed, but suggested the potential to raise many a smile.

David Sinclair

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An Englishman abroad

John Higgins talks to Lord
Harewood, organizer of next
year's Adelaide Festival

Lord Harewood had just lost Mick Jagger. Such is the fate of festival directors. Jagger was booked to give a concert on the second day of the Adelaide Festival next March as part of an Australian tour. But the tour was now off and so was the appearance before an expected full-house audience paying \$435 a head — a reasonable price now that the Australian dollar is 2.50 to £1.

Harewood, chosen by Adelaide to be its administrative force in bicentennial year, did not appear at all dismayed.

He had had cancellations before, starting with the first festival he controlled, Leeds in 1958. To his great delight he had booked Klempner to conduct the *Massa Solemnis*, only to be forced to replace him with Forestein. It was Peter Diamond, having gently declined the job himself, who recommended Harewood to the Leeds board. Success on his native Yorkshire territory led to his appointment as artistic director of the Edinburgh Festival in 1961. There he ruled until 1965.

But Harewood, while keeping the Leeds connection until well into the Seventies, has been out of the major international festival circuit for over 20 years. And Adelaide is a major festival. It quickly established itself as Australia's most important celebration of the arts: it was bigger, bolder and more varied than anything else on offer. And so it has remained. One of its secrets, many believe, is the insistence of the board on maintaining it as a biennial event and, in the last decade, appointing a new director for each festival. It certainly prevents that pre-cooked feeling at certain other festivals.

How useful has that experience of the early Sixties been to Lord Harewood in assembling his Adelaide programme?

"It certainly taught me how to run a festival then. But now? All our perceptions have changed. One or two festivals like Salzburg and Bayreuth remain tightly knit, but an Edinburgh, an Aix or an Adelaide now has to have a much looser conception and much more variety."

"What once broke new ground is now old hat — I think the performances of *The House of the Dead* and *Khovanshchina* that we put on in Edinburgh were both British "firsts". It may be a little easier in Adelaide, but not much. We are, though, giving the Australian premiere of Prokofiev's *The Fiery Angel*, which I was suggesting to Covent Garden — unsuccessfully — back in the Fifties."

George Harewood admits that he was surprised to be



Harewood: surprised when he was given the job

approached by Adelaide, but that most English of Australian cities has regularly asked Britons to act as master of ceremonies.

When he was awarded the job, Harewood immediately started ringing up friends and combing the world. "I made a sweep across Europe in the summer of '86 — not a great success. There were two visits to Edinburgh, another two to America, and a couple to India. It is a business where

elation and despair follow in quick succession.

"I'm sorry I've not got the National Theatre and that the RSC were already booked. But we do have the Chicago Symphony and the Brook *Mahabharata*, our two most expensive bookings — amazing how costly "poor" theatre is. I'm delighted to have secured Bolek Polivka from Czechoslovakia, one of the great clowns of our time. I caught him in Baltimore, where it was virtually impossible to get in because local actors had snapped up all the "concession" tickets. The Japanese Sankai Juku are one of the most original dance companies I've ever encountered — five chalky white figures I first saw in Lyons. Fascinating Aida were irresistible when I learnt they referred to themselves as "Sweet FA".

"I resisted from the start any idea of probing into the bicentenary itself. No-one had a brainwave on how to celebrate it and the whole thing boiled down to pageants, which are very much not part of the festival I envisage."

FASHION by Liz Smith

Baubles, bangles and bows: this Christmas the flashiest, most glamorous accessories will be arriving in the most bijou of boxes

The most stylish presents do come in the smallest packages. Squat little boxes, glossy wrapped and tied with a fat bow, reveal the season's most glamorous accessories — those sparkling, amusing, even flashy-looking gems that look their best on a velvety frock or perhaps nestled inside an off-the-shoulder décolletage.

A neat, flat packet might enclose matt tights (keenly prized by the short-skirted) or Christmassy stockings (dark, sheer and banded in lace, please). An elegant, document-sized brown envelope might hold nothing more formal than the essential accompaniment to the bare-shouldered dress: a pair of elbow-length gloves in silky suede with pearl-buttons, or in gold-flecked net.

The sprig of holly sported in the buttonhole of dashing jeweller Montagu Don twinkles in green and red crystal. "Even the most sophisticated revert to corny notions of a traditional Christmas," he apologizes. Robins, holly, snowflakes and trumpeting angels (at prices from £20 for holly earrings up to £50 for a crystal snowflake pin) are out-selling the less seasonal, but far more serious gems which twinkle at his Beauchamp Place, London SW3, shop, as well as Hoopers in Tunbridge Wells, Torquay and Cheltenham.

If proof were needed that any investment in costume jewellery is worthwhile, it is provided by the beautifully crafted faux bijoux from the 1920s to the 1960s collected by Tania Hunter and Veronica Manassis for their Cobra & Bellamy shop in Sloane Street, SW1. A tiny Temple of Love pin in paste and marcasite set in silver, made in the 1920s, is apparently a snip at £380.

Any present boxed in Chanel's glossy black packaging speeds up the pulse of fans of Mademoiselle's ultra-chic style. Prices start at £45 for classic gilt-rimmed mock pearl earrings. The status evening bag — the mini quilted classic in black satin costs £190 from Chanel.

Prettiest presents are tied in a bow. For the hair: Rifat Ozbek's satin and velvet bow in gold and black or taupe and gold can be found at most House of Fraser stores, price £19.99; at Fenwick bows start at £4.95 in padded gold or silver.

Utterly simple suede gloves can be found at Ralph Lauren's Bond Street shop. They come in two lengths, at £98 and £108 for three-quarter length. The chocolate brown suede looks chic with everything, including black.

Most glamorous Christmas stockings are Balmain's lace-topped, seamed sheers at £3.25, or Emilio Cavallini's Flash Leg lace hold-up textured stockings for £1.65, available from major stores.

Few crackers being pulled this Christmas will have a trinket inside quite as nifty as the £15,000 scarlet cracker still on sale at Garrards. It has no motto, no party hat; just a lavish little item, diamond-encrusted and in gold, to be clasped on a fragile wrist.



Left: Circular velvet evening bag encrusted with "gems" and gold-thread embroidery, £45, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Jet and mock pearl necklace with jet and rhinestone square pendant, £160; matching drop earrings, £37.50; Ken Lane, 66 South Molton Street, W1; 30 Burlington Arcade, W1; 50 Beauchamp Place, SW3. Long gloves in stretch Lycra, £5.95, Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1 and branches. Scallop-necked fitted tunic in lime ottoman, £148.50, Arabella Pollen from Jacque, 7 Beauchamp Place, SW3; Zanzis, 84 Heath Street, NW3; Jeanne Pettit, 3 Bridge Street, Hungerford.

Right: Rhinestone cluster collar punctuated with pear-shaped rhinestones, £115, Ken Lane, addresses as before. Mock pearl three-strand necklace with rhinestone and gilt bow, £198; wide multi-strand bracelet (right) in rhinestone, £98; buckled rhinestone bracelets (left), £128 each; "The Queen's" rhinestone bow brooch (pinned on stocking top), £54; all Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton Street, W1; 189 Fulham Road, SW3; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 and selected House of Fraser stores. Long gold-flecked fishnet gloves, £18.95, Cornelia James from Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1 and branches. Lace-topped sheer black hold-up stockings, £2.50, Pretty Polly from Sock Shop branches. Flame orange taffeta strapless dress with three-tiered skirt, stiffened with net petticoats, £395, Droopy & Browns, 99 St Martin's Lane, WC2; 16-17 St Christopher's Place, W1; 21 Stonegate, York; 21 Milson Street, Bath; 37-39 Frederick Street, Edinburgh.

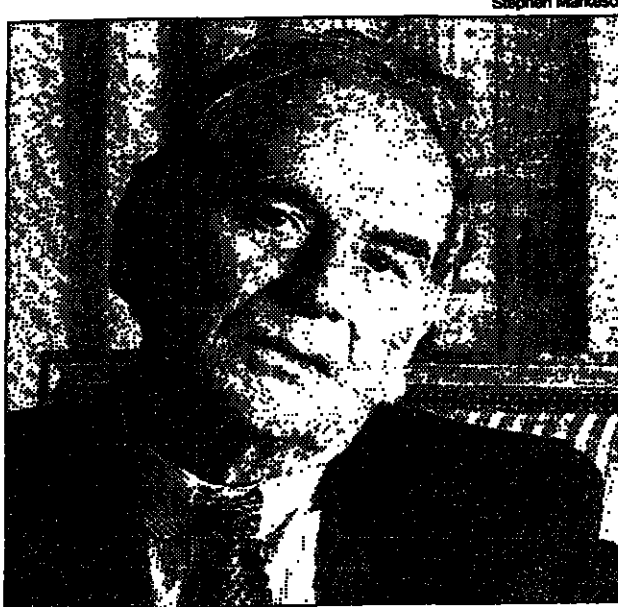
Hair: Paul Messing for 10A St Christopher's Place, W1. Make-up: Debbie Burn. Photographs: STEVIE HUGHES

Sparkle all the way



Designs on democracy

Couturier and businessman
Pierre Cardin is an ambassador of style



Cardin's calm collections: "I democratized fashion"

It is characteristic of the fashion industry's peculiar brand of creative snobbery that its most successful couturier, the man whose label is scattered most liberally across the globe, is the one it singles out for criticism.

Pierre Cardin, who scandalized the fashion world with his innovative use of vinyl and plastic in the Sixties and who invented a bubble dress early in the Seventies, is today, it sniffs, a businessman who risks debasing the ancient craft by lending his name to blow-driers and sardine tins, cruise ships and restaurants.

In 1981 he amazed everyone by buying Maxim's. In 1985 when he was honoured with one of the first fashion Oscars, it was more for his skills at "le marketing" than for the drape or cut of his clothes. Cardin remains unperturbed.

He was in London last week

hosting a party for his 35 separate clothes and accessories licensees in the UK. Having told me once that he believes he is another Napoleon blazing a trail for France, he now adds that he is Marco Polo, too. His travels take him to the 95 countries

calls "l'art de vivre", or life-style. Working a 13-hour day in his suburban St Honoré studio, Cardin insists that he draws the first sketch for everything he puts his name to, from refrigerators to chocolate wrappers, to a lapel or a shoulder line. He signs every cheque and is his own manager.

The day before I spoke to him he had attended meetings to discuss ideas for a new line of Maxim's low calorie food and to work on plans for the Maxim's hotel he opens in South Korea for the Olympic games. But he insists that he remains first and foremost a couturier. "Look," he says as he dashes off a convincing sketch for me. "I work very fast. I create. I talk."

He is not going to be fazed by the rivalry offered by Paris's new design star, Christian Lacroix. "He has great esprit," he says. "His style is the opposite of my own but I respect him."

Cardin relishes his pioneering work in Africa, which started 15 years ago. He employs 4,000 Zulus in his clothes factories there. "They arrive half naked and get into overalls to pedal furiously at my machines, and then get undressed to go home." He is proud of being first to foresee the opening of the huge market in China and the Soviet Union.

Raisa Gorbachova owns a Cardin couture suit. But she did not wear it in Washington. He speaks warmly of her style. "She is the first woman to take part in public life in Russia. She has pretty manners and is très raffinée."

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Golden share worries Britoil

Bid target fears stake will hit share price

By Colin Narkrough

Britoil, Britain's biggest independent oil company, made clear to the Takeover Panel yesterday its concern that the Government's golden share is creating serious difficulties for shareholders faced with a £2.7 billion bid from British Petroleum.

The Glasgow-based company fears that by challenging the Government over the golden share - the interest the Treasury retains to prevent any single bidder gaining control of Britoil - BP is seeking to provoke the Government into exercising direct control.

Britoil is concerned that this would be detrimental to the company, as government involvement would not be perceived as a benefit by the market, and might mean that the Britoil shareholders will not be able to realize the maximum price their shares would otherwise achieve.

BP meanwhile considers its cash offer of 450p per Britoil share as a "full and fair" price, and maintains its interest in acquiring the company is boosting the Britoil price, not depressing it.

Submissions from the two companies to the City watchdog of firms' behaviour during takeovers and mergers arrived simultaneously yesterday from their financial advisers.

NM Rothschild for Britoil and J Henry Schroder Waggs for BP.

They will be considered by the panel this afternoon, after which a statement is expected.

Both sides were reluctant to disclose details of their submissions, but BP, which last week took on the Treasury

over the golden share issue, will be challenging the Government's jurisdiction over Britoil.

BP has made clear that, despite the Government's announcement last week that it would exercise its golden share rights, its offer for Britoil would go unconditional when it had acquired 50 per cent of the shares.

The Treasury gave no sign of shifting its position yesterday, and BP was not predicting how Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor would respond.

Atlantic Richfield, the US oil company which is expected to make a rival offer for Britoil, had acquired a stake of about 14.7 per cent in the company by the weekend.

Arco has said it wants a 30 per cent stake in Britoil but would leave itself scope for expanding this.

Meanwhile, fears that a BP takeover would mean Britoil, Scotland's largest company, leaving Glasgow, were being voiced by Scottish politicians.

BP yesterday lodged an application with the Department of Energy for development of the North Sea Major field, along with a major North Sea gas gathering pipeline.

Indonesian breakthrough

Britoil yesterday announced that it is to operate a new exploration area in Indonesia for Pertamina, the Indonesian State Oil Corporation. The company, which will be the sole operator, will run the Sale block in eastern Sulawesi covering 25,000 square kilometres - about the size of 120 North Sea blocks.

Drilling is likely to begin in early 1989. Mr David Walker, Britoil's chief executive, said: "We believe that Indonesia continues to offer attractive opportunities for long-term investment and it is one of the countries highlighted in our strategic plans to expand the company."

"The award is particularly significant for the company as it is our first operatorship in Indonesia."

Post Office doubles interims at £46m

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Post Office doubled its pretax profits to £46 million in the half-year to end-September but it expects the full-year result will be similar to the £170 million recorded for 1986-87.

Retained profit for the six months was £24 million after deducting £15 million in tax and £7 million for interest on long-term loans.

The six-month figure, achieved on a turnover of £1,790 million, follows a comparable period last year when profits were hit by a Post Office price freeze and the 1p rebate on second class stamps.

Yesterday the Post Office repeated its promise that there would be no basic letter price increases in the current year and stressed that prices were already more than 11 per cent lower in real terms than five years ago.

The number of letters handled this year is expected to rise by 6.5 per cent, similar to last year, and Sir Bryan Nicholson, the new Post Office chairman, said £18 million was to be spent on delivery service to enable many more second class deliveries.

Sir Bryan said the recent agreement with the Union of Communications Workers, which narrowly averted dis-

rupting Christmas post, was sensible. It was self-financing and no cost would be passed on to the customer.

He said: "Service excellence is my number one priority; all else flows from that. I want to complete the transformation of the Post Office into a successful, customer-driven, commercially-orientated business, profitable and with secure employment."

"No other service can remotely rival ours. All our competitors put together do not deliver in a year what we can do deliver in a single day at Christmas."

Success had to be earned every day, Sir Bryan added, with superior, uninterrupted service. "I shall push ahead with the necessary changes to the way the Post Office does business."

Extra costs will be incurred this year to provide more staff and transport to handle the growth of mail. The Post Office is also spending £80 million on modernizing high street main post offices and is looking at ways of improving weekend postal services.

The Post Office board, which under its previous chairman Sir Ron Dearing, was opposed to the corporation being privatized in bits.

Buy-in plan boost for Dawson Int

By Colin Campbell

Dawson International manufacturer of Pringle and Braemar knitwear, and Helical Bar, the property group, served notice yesterday that it wants to assume powers to buy back a prescribed number of its own shares.

The impact of the proposals was to send both share prices sharply higher. Dawson rising from 194p to 211p and Helical Bar from 156p to 175p.

The implications for com-

panies buying in their own shares, which thereby reduces the number of shares in issue, are a boost to the net earnings a share level and to the net asset value.

The buying in and cancellation of shares by companies with surplus cash is a growing fashion, in the wake of the October 19 stock market crash, as companies take advantage of depressed stock market levels.

Tempus, page 18



Attack formation: Michael Bishop, second from right, gets the backing of, from left, fellow EuroCity director Jonathan Wilson, Captain Peter Mitchell, EuroCity's chief pilot, and Philip Beck, chairman of Mowlem, the airport operator

City airline chief attacks rival

An airline chief yesterday condemned a rival carrier's "threatening and confrontational style" which he blamed for the suspension of Paris flights from London City Airport.

The Civil Aviation Authority has halted flights to Paris by Brymon Airways and EuroCity Express after Brymon suggested the flights were unsafe.

Mr Michael Bishop, Euro-

city's chairman, said the authority's decision was an inevitable and proper response "to the style of threat and confrontation... deemed appropriate by another operator (Brymon)."

He said Brymon had used "threats and ultimatums" to secure a further improvement in air traffic control services for the route. The authority's decision followed a number of letters from Brymon.

Captain Harry Gee, Brymon's flight operations manager, had also told the authority on December 15 that unless there was an improvement in air traffic services within 28 days, he would be forced to recommend that Brymon suspend its services from the £30 million Docklands airport.

Mr Bishop said he had seen the letters to the CAA and described the complaints as

"lacking experience, tact and judgement."

Mr Bishop said he was happy with the flight routings to Paris from the airport, which opened on October 26, although there was room for improvement in air traffic control services.

Eurocity is continuing its services to Brussels.

Brymon declined to respond to Mr Bishop's attack.

Buy-back to end on January 6

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor's buy-back scheme for the newly-privatized BP shares will end on January 6, the Bank of England announced yesterday.

Market estimates suggest the Bank could be left with as much as £500 million worth of the 2.2 billion new shares, bought back at the special price of 70p a share.

But traders also said the Kuwait Investment Office, which holds 950 million of the new shares, could increase its stake by offering to buy in the market at a fraction above 70p.

The Bank's announcement gives investors a few days more than the five days' minimum notice required under the Chancellor's arrangements. Particulars will be published in the main national newspapers on December 23 and 29 and will be available from branches of the National Westminster Bank, the Bank of Scotland and the Ulster Bank.

The Treasury said that until the close of business last Thursday, the Bank had bought back 247,331 BP shares.

Analysts said the price of the old BP shares was crucial in determining the extent to which the buy-back scheme was activated. Yesterday the price fluctuated between 235p and 255p, closing at 251p.

Mr David Gray, oil analyst at James Capel, the broker, said that at a price of 250p or more in the market for the old shares, most institutions would not sell their holdings of the new shares in order to switch. But at 240p or below, he added, it became more attractive.

The price of the new shares is, in any event, expected to fall well below 70p when the Bank's buy-back arrangements expire. A price of 40p to 50p for the new shares after January 6 is widely expected.

Comment, page 19

Equiticorp breaks Monier stalemate

By Alexandra Jackson and Richard Battley

The stalemate which has prevailed for some months at Redland's Australian subsidiary, Monier, was broken yesterday when the British group accepted Mr Allan Hawkins' Equiticorp Tasman's Aus\$324 million offer for its 50.1 per cent holding in the company.

However, Redland is to pay Aus\$298 million for Monier's roof tile interests in Australia, Japan and the United States, and will retain the Monier name. Redland will assume Aus\$16 million of Monier's total debt of Aus\$115 million.

Equiticorp will take control of Monier's modest roof tile businesses in Thailand, Indonesia and New Zealand, as well as its more significant concrete products and aggregates activities.

Monier's roof tile sales in the year to last June amounted to Aus\$295 million, on which it earned Aus\$28.5 million. Total sales were Aus\$727 million for the period, with pretax profits of Aus\$45 mil-

Benlox had 0.8% of Storehouse

By Cliff Feltham

The Benlox bid for Sir Terence Conran's Storehouse group ended in complete failure. The bid attracted acceptances from holders of just 0.8 per cent of the shares.

Benlox allowed the offer to lapse last Friday after claiming some large holders had withdrawn their backing. But the final levels of support, announced yesterday, show the bid never had a chance.

However, the Benlox side, advised by Inncorp Earl, the merchant bank, continued to put a brave face on its defeat. A spokesman said that until the last offer was perched on a "knife-edge."

Benlox, an engineering business, had planned to split Storehouse into six different parts and float each one. It is left holding 1.25 million shares in Storehouse - representing 0.31 per cent of the equity.

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Legal & General chief at the Institute of Manpower

Productivity key to UK success

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The belief of British managers in their ability to manage and a better, leaner, more competitive manufacturing industry are the reasons for the country's current economic success, according to Sir James Ball, the chairman of Legal & General Group, the second largest life assurance company in the country.

Speaking to the annual meeting of the Institute of Manpower Studies, he said that part of the favourable general economic performance was attributable to the advantage that 7 per cent of Britain's income now comes from oil, largely replacing lost manufacturing output. Secondly, he said, there had been a large change in productivity, so that Britain is now producing the same level of output in manufacturing as in 1979, but with one-third fewer people.

Sir James said: "One of the key questions is, are we getting weaker or are we getting stronger? Is it a good thing that we produce that level of output with

one-third less people, or should one be worried by the fact that those people are not in work?"

The important issue, he said, was whether there had been a fundamental change in productivity or whether it was simply "creative human resource accounting" hiding no change, with the unemployment transferred from the employers' excess manning to the Government. That would have been a matter of saying that British industry was "less efficient rather than more efficient."

An indication of efficiency was the fact that Britain had stabilized and maintained its share of world trade from about 1982, in spite of the rise in imported manufactured goods. On the export side it has maintained its share of world manufacturing trade in spite of the fact that this usually declined fastest in times of rapid economic growth.

He continued: "I believe there has been a real and fundamental change in the belief of British management in its

own capacity to manage, I believe that the changes in the balance between management and trade union power have been quite significant, and I believe that there has been real change."

"British manufacturing is now better and leaner, and more competitive than it was in 1979, and I believe that is a real success story 'with higher productivity.'"

Sir James said this productivity gain had not essentially been brought about by Government policies. "But," he went on, "the difference with the Thatcher Government is the conversion of inflation into a macro-economic problem, and that of unemployment to a micro-economic problem."

"The Thatcher experiment was standing on their heads, but this had led to sustained recovery instead of the decline predicted by economists who thought cutting the Budget deficit would lead to more and more unemployment. The latter had been the fear of the famous letter to *The Times* by 365 leading economists in 1981."

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share	405.1 (+27.3)
FT-SE 100	750.2 (+33.2)
Large gains	7597 (28077)
ISM (Datastream)	36.69 (+3.20)
THE POUND	
US dollar	1.8275 (+0.0015)
German mark	1.9861 (+0.0024)
Trade-weighted	1.56 (+0.1)

Ian Allan sold to Smith

WH Smith, the high street newsagent, is taking over a chain of 32 retail travel agencies in a deal aimed at creating a nationwide business.

Ian Allan Travel, which had a turnover of £32 million last year, is being acquired for £5.7 million in cash and shares and will bring to 74 the number of specialist travel agencies now run by Smith.

Mr Simon Hornby, chairman of Smith, said: "The acquisition will increase our representation in the London area, just as last month's purchase of the 11-strong Robinson's travel agency chain did in the South-west."

Brewery plan

Buckley's Brewery, which fell under the control of Brodrian in October after a hostile 192p bid battle, is planning to develop into a broadly-based leisure group through acquisitions and organic growth.

Interim pretax profits are over at £304,000 (£257,000) after various accounting changes, but the interim dividend is maintained at 0.5p.

Tempus, page 18

£11.2m sales

BET, the industrial services group, has made two plant-hire acquisitions for £11.2 million cash. It has paid £7 million for Port Talbot Plant, a specialist in aerial work platforms, and £4.2 million for Redcap, which has a rapidly expanding hire fleet of pre-fabricated, portable accommodation units.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1985.91 (+10.81)
Tokyo	2278.13 (+97.57)
Hong Kong	2278.13 (+97.57)
Amsterdam	212.7 (+1.9)
Sydney	1250.7 (+8.9)
Frankfurt	1343.9 (+14.8)
Brussels	3503.8 (same)
Paris CAC	287.2 (+5.5)
Zurich	426.5 (+8.4)
London	
FT-A All Share	405.1 (+27.3)
FT-100	750.2 (+33.2)
FT Gold Mines	305.6 (+3.2)
FT Fixed Interest	94.69 (+0.19)
FT Govt Secs	98.21 (+0.48)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

BSSEs	220p (+20p)
Avon Rubber	405p (+17p)
Henderson Admin.	700p (+27p)
Mountain	700p (+27p)
AB Elect	345p (+27p)
Coats Vytella	295p (+15p)
Wm Collins	260p (+20p)
Parkside	260p (+20p)
Kelsey Ind.	450p (+15p)
Authority Inv.	295p (+25p)
Parsons	295p (+25p)
Laporte	381p (+18p)
Booker	387p (+20p)
Schroders	875p (+10p)
Ashland	940p (+20p)
Lloyds	241p (+10p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	8 1/4%
3-month interbank	9 1/4%
3-month eligible bills	8 1/4-8 1/2%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	8 1/4%
Federal Funds	5 1/4-5 1/2%
3-month Treasury	5.85-5.83%
30-year bonds	9 1/4-9 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.8275	\$ £1.8275
£ DM1.9861	DM £1.9861
£ Sfr1.2406	Sfr £1.2406
£ FF10.0942	FF £10.0942
£ Yen232.18	Yen £232.18
£ ECU20.5103	ECU £20.5103

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$481.00 PM \$480.00
close	\$479.25-479.75 (\$262.25-262.75)
New York	Comex \$479.20-479.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) pm \$15.10/bbl (\$16.30)	
Denotes latest trading price	
Stock Market	18
Tempus	18
Alpha Stocks	18
Comment	19
City Diary	19
Bus Running	20
World Markets	20
Traded Oils	20
Money Markets	22
Foreign Exch	22
Unit Trusts	22
Commodity	22
USM Prices	22

Redland leaves middle of road

ALL MERCHANDISE IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. SOME LINES ARE AVAILABLE AT LARGER BRANCHES ONLY.

British Gas to pay £350m for 33% Bow Valley stake

By Colin Narborough

British Gas, blocked by Ottawa from taking a majority interest in Bow Valley Industries, the Canadian energy group, has opted to buy one third of the company for 20 per cent less than it originally offered.

Under the new deal, announced yesterday, the privatized British company will pay Can\$837 million (£349.91 million) for 33 per cent of the voting shares in Bow Valley on an undiluted basis.

Mr Robert Evans, chief executive of British Gas, had declared that it remained interested in gaining control of Bow Valley after the first offer was rejected, and that he would make a second attempt.

Yesterday's news helped British Gas shares add 7p in London to 132p before easing back in the afternoon to close at 131p.

The binding agreement now signed will not require any further approval by the Canadian government, but must be cleared by the US regulatory authorities and the shareholders in Bow Valley Industries.

British Gas's total investment of Can\$837 million will comprise Can\$517 million used to buy non-voting convertible preference shares from the Canadian Treasury equivalent to 28.7 million common shares at Can\$18 each, and Can\$320 million for



Satisfied man: Robert Evans, chief executive of British Gas 16 million outstanding common shares at Can\$20 each.

British Gas's previous offer, which was worth Can\$940 million, lapsed last month in the wake of the worldwide stock market crash amid fears that the authorities responsible for foreign investment in Canada would oppose it.

The new deal takes into account the reduced holding, lower equity prices and currency changes. In sterling terms, it will cost British Gas

"extremely reasonable balance" between the interests of both parties.

The deal was also welcomed by Mr Daryl Seaman, the chairman of Bow Valley, who said British Gas would make an excellent ally.

As the agreement has to be approved by a special meeting of Bow Valley shareholders, finalization is not expected before late February or early March.

British Gas said the accord reaffirmed the two companies' joint commitment to building a large energy company to seek out and realize opportunities for growth in North America and the North Sea.

The diversification value of the Bow Valley acquisition has clearly been uppermost in British Gas's mind since the idea was first mooted in August.

Bow Valley's prospecting strength, as Canada's biggest oil group, holds great allure for British Gas, which saw its own activities in this field curtailed as it was prepared for privatization.

Canada's willingness to let British Gas move into a position where it will be able to nominate the majority of directors to the Bow Valley board at the next annual meeting in spring, is in sharp contrast to the view that Ottawa would oppose foreign control of Canada's leading energy groups.

Mr Evans said the transaction enables the company to acquire a substantial stake in the equity of Bow Valley and nominate the majority of the directors.

"We are looking forward to playing a major part in the further development of Bow Valley in Canada and elsewhere," he said.

British Gas regards the price it is paying as representing an

Midland deal with HK bank ratified

By Richard Thomson

The deal in which Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation will take a 14.9 per cent stake in Midland Bank is due to be completed today after ratification yesterday by the Department of Trade and Industry and Midland's shareholders.

The Hong Kong bank has paid a minimum of £383 million for the stake, but more is due, related to Midland's net asset value at the end of the year.

The injection of extra capital will leave Midland the best capitalized of the English clearing banks. But that position will be eroded if further massive bad debt provisions are needed by the banks to cover their Latin American loans.

The deal, which includes a selective consolidation and rationalization of international business, received overwhelming support from Midland shareholders at yesterday's extraordinary meeting. Holders of 151 million shares voted for the deal, with 400,000 against. All institutional shareholders were in favour.

The anticipated opposition from M&G, the fund management group which owns 8 per cent of the bank, did not materialize. In answer to a shareholder's question, Sir Kit McMahon, the chairman, confirmed that M&G had voted in favour of the agreement with the Hong Kong bank. Although unhappy at the earnings per share dilution resulting from the deal, the fund management group accepted the long-term commercial logic of the agreement.

Midland and Hongkong Bank have already determined on the exchange of several of their overseas operations. Midland is taking over most of Hongkong Bank's European operations while Hongkong Bank is taking over most of Midland's Far Eastern and US operations. Working parties are examining details of the transfers.

Negotiations are also taking place about further areas of co-operation, such as in merchant banking and securities. Hongkong Bank owns James Capel, the stockbroker, while Midland owns Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, and Greenwell Montagu, the securities operation.

COMMENT Why investors must be wary of the rally

It may seem churlish to inject a note of caution over the seasonal festivities which appear to be the key component of buoyant share prices in most leading financial centres of the world over the past few days. But if there is a spectre haunting investors just now, it is surely the ghost of some future Christmas which could tell us whether the current rally is durable or merely a cruel and short-lived bull trap.

As has been pointed out here recently, the UK equity market has already completed stage one of its collapse and reached a point where company share prices offer aggressive managements plenty of opportunity to buy hard assets at attractive values. This factor lies behind the flurry of activity in the oil exploration sector and moves by companies such as RTZ for MK Electric. Many more mergers and acquisitions can be expected once the end-year celebrations are completed. Even with slower economic growth in prospect, takeovers can still provide a short cut to business development at worthwhile prices.

But factors such as these cannot, on their own, sustain markets at current levels. Before a "bottom" to the post-crash bear market can be solidly established, portfolio investors with both near and long-term time-horizons must regain confidence in the prospects for equities.

The fundamentals have worsened considerably since the crash, especially for companies with sizeable US interests which will be hard hit by the weakness of the dollar and pressures arising from a slow down in the US economy. The key, 1988 indicators for the British equity market, even so, do not look terrible by historic standards. Profits growth next year will, according to most forecasters, be close to double figures and many firms will declare dividend increases which are positive in real terms. Even the prospective market multiple of, perhaps, 12 times historic earnings (lower still for 1988 earnings) is, by no means, unreasonable. The problem for this fundamental approach, however, lies in anticipating economic growth rates for 1989. Before the crash, most analysts were expecting a good deal more buoyant world economy than now looks likely. As suggested here yesterday, the current underlying growth rate of output implied by the Treasury's forecasts for 1988 may be no more than 1 to 1.5 per cent. This implies a slowing down of corporate profits growth to, perhaps, 8 per cent or less in 1989. Forecasting this far ahead is, of course, subject to wide margins of error. But these sort of indications are cold comfort for the bulls. Without a strong case on fundamental grounds, equity investors are left to the mercies of market sentiment.

As Gordon Pepper, of Midland Montagu, candidly put it recently, the two great factors likely to affect market psychology in the months ahead can neither be quantified nor measured one against the other. The contractionary forces arising from the so-called, post-crash wealth effect and loss of confidence in the US are, on Mr Pepper's analysis, opposed by lower interest rates and massive injections of liquidity arising from central bank currency market intervention.

Since Mr Pepper was one of a handful of commentators last summer giving a warning of the dangers of a speculative bubble in equity markets, it is worth noting that he now does not rule out a secondary collapse in shares. If the

expansionary forces which he lists prove dominant in financial markets, inflationary expectations will rise, bond markets will panic and equity markets will follow suit. This may not be much of a prescription for a happy Christmas, but for investors it may help towards a prosperous New Year.

Toothless watchdog

It is fitting that yesterday's report from the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, the Commons' friendly old watchdog on the economy, begins with an apology. For the Committee's observations on the Chancellor's Autumn Statement are themselves an apology of a report.

The TCSC, one of several select committees supposed to perform the sort of investigative role that Congressional committees do in Washington, has become increasingly irrelevant. Treasury officials who used to fear a session under the MPs' cross-examination, now actually look forward to despatching the Committee's gentle lobs to the boundary.

As for the Chancellor, who appeared to be on auto-pilot during his session with the committee this month, the TCSC appears to have given up hope of ever breaking through his armour.

And yet, the main recommendation in yesterday's report on the Autumn Statement is that the Chancellor should not be making important speeches on monetary policy or exchange rates at the Mansion House or the International Monetary Fund, but instead in the House, "so that they may be subject directly to questioning from Members".

Three things need to be done to turn the committee into an effective Treasury watchdog. The first is that the Labour Party should change its approach and put some of its front-bench spokesmen on select committees. The present Labour members on the committee, Brian Sedgemore, Giles Radice and David Winnick, appear to spend too much time drawing up alternative reports to which no parliamentary committee could put its name.

The second requirement is that the questioning of officials and ministers be a collective effort rather than a series of individual flights of fancy. Finally, as in the early 1980s, the committee should institute more of its own investigations, rather than just respond to the set-piece events in the economic calendar.

BP puzzle

Come Twelfth Night and the extent to which BP has been de-privatized under the Chancellor's buyback scheme will be rather clearer. As expected, the Bank of England announced that the scheme will run its full life, that is until 3 pm, January 6, after which the safety net is whipped away from the BP new shares.

Should every spare BP share in the market find its way back to the Bank, the Treasury would find itself around £850 million short of its £5 billion privatization target, but this would not be enough to prevent a surplus on the public sector borrowing requirement this year. And some institutional holders have already tucked away their BP new shares for the long-term.

The tactics of the Kuwait Investment Office over the next few days will determine how large a chunk of BP returns to the Treasury. By offering to buy in the market at 70p, the KIO can easily add to the nearly one billion of BP new shares already has.

Injunctions against News Corp

From Richard Battley

The Federal Court yesterday issued temporary injunctions restraining The News Corporation from buying controlling interests in Australia's sole national news agency and in its main supplier of newsprint.

They were granted at the request of the Trade Practices Commission.

The Commission's chairman, Mr Bob McComas, said in a statement issued in Canberra that he believed that the sale of the holdings in Australian Associated Press and Australian Newsprint Mills, held by John Fairfax and its associate, Tryatt, to The News Corporation would contravene Section 50 of the Trade Practices Act, which governs market dominance.

The News Corporation has agreed to buy the Fairfax holdings, which would lift its stake to 82 per cent in AAP and 93 per cent in ANM, for an estimated Aus\$275m (£107 million).

The sale, if effected, will reduce the heavy debts incurred by Mr Warwick Fairfax in the recent privatization of John Fairfax, the media group his family has controlled for 150 years.

The injunctions remain in force until this Thursday.

Computer buy

Hoskyns, the computer services company, is taking over the Computer Based Training group, of Dublin, which has developed courses in financial management, banking and foreign trade, in an agreement which could be worth up to £5 million.

Court upholds £12.3m Kleinwort tin claim

By Our City Staff

Creditors battling to recover bad debt from the collapse of the International Tin Council yesterday received encouraging news when a High Court judge upheld a £12.3 million claim by the merchant bank Kleinwort Benson against the state-controlled Malaysian Mining Corporation.

Mr Justice Hirst, in the Commercial Court, ruled that Kleinwort, a significant lender to the tin trade, was entitled to recover its loan and interest from the Malaysian group under the terms of "letters of comfort" given to a wholly-owned subsidiary, MMC Metals, as part of the terms of the loan.

He said when the tin market collapsed in October 1985, the parent company made clear it

was no longer its policy to ensure that MMC Metals was "at all times in a position to meet its liabilities" under the loan arrangements. This was breach of contract.

The Malaysian group had argued that the letter of comfort created no contract.

Creditor brokers and banks will welcome the legal backing in their multi-front campaign to recover a total of up to £600 million of bad debt left by the tin crisis.

The judge said it had been of paramount importance to Kleinwort that the parent company ensured MMC Metals, a former ring-denecked member of the London Metal Exchange, was at all times able to meet its liabilities.

Even without a catastrophe,

commodity markets were by their very nature speculative and volatile and prone to sharp losses as well as profits, he noted.

The facility to MMC was more than three times the company's paid-up capital and was provided without security.

It was hard to imagine anything of greater commercial importance than a contractual binding ability with recourse to the holding company should the subsidiary default, Mr Justice Hirst said.

Malaysia is the world's leading producer of tin and has been a key player in international efforts to support the price, attracting much criticism from the metals trade.

Batleys dips on higher interest

By Joe Joseph

Batleys, the Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, cash and carry wholesaler, is still suffering from the heavy interest it is paying on borrowings made to finance its aggressive expansion.

Pretax profits fell from £652,000 to £628,000 in the half year to October 31, on increased sales of £122.1 million.

Interest charges climbed from £40,000 to £152,000 during the period, which ended with the opening of a warehouse in Edinburgh, the company's first move into Scotland.

Mr Bruce Firth, the manage-

B&D mobilizes in fight for Dee

By Our City Staff

Barker & Dobson, the Budget supermarkets to confectionery group, yesterday called Dee Corporation, the Gateway supermarkets group for which it has launched a £2 billion bid, an "over-stretched and over-diversified retail hotchpotch".

Mr John Fletcher, B&D chairman, said in the offer document that Dee was fighting today's retail battles on yesterday's map.

He said Dee shareholders could either "stagnate" with Dee or accept an offer which guaranteed 81 per cent of Dee's pre-bid share price back in cash as well as participation

in the growth of B&D.

B&D announced its ambitious bid last Thursday, when Mr Alec Monk, Dee's chairman, was abroad. The bid was swiftly rejected by Dee and further condemned by Mr Monk at the weekend.

B&D has raised £1.6 billion in loan finance from a syndicate of banks to finance the cash element of the bid and for working capital. A programme of disposals of Dee's non-Gateway operations, including supermarkets, is planned.

Dee's shares closed at 224p, 1 1/2p below the bid price with B&D shares at 157p.

The day after party time

The ill-timed sackings in the UK securities division of merchant bank Morgan Grenfell, announced to its shocked staff late on Friday - the day after the office Christmas party - involved, I am told, some 25 people. Described as "underperformers", the departees did, however, include several individuals at director level. The firm itself is steadfastly refusing to release details of names, numbers or titles. "I cannot make any comment," says spokesman Ben Woodford, "except to say that it was a very small number of people, bearing in mind our 17 per cent annual staff turnover." But I can reveal that they did include four experienced and widely respected market-makers - former Pinchin Denny partner Malcolm Slaughter (as was his father before him), Michael Cocklin, Fred Taylor and Colin Weaver. There is also widespread talk of further redundancies to come. But once again Woodford refuses to comment, save to repeat a somewhat ambiguous memo sent to staff by Morgan chief executive John Craven, in which he says: "It is our intention to protect the employment of staff as far as possible." Stay tuned....

One of the best-selling stocking fillers on Wall Street this year is a book about a special Oriental teddy bear called Bahkoo. Apparently his special powers include the ability to eat nightmares. Could be quite a useful gift on this side of the Atlantic, too.

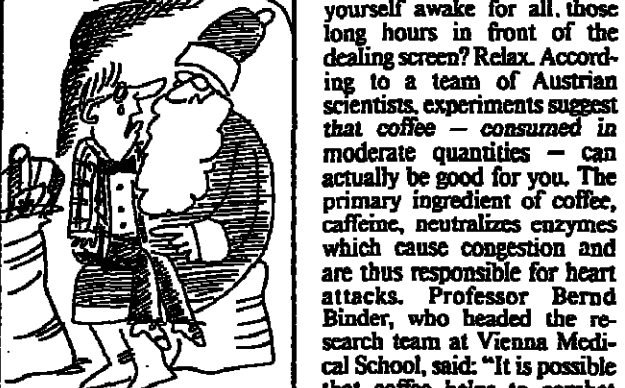
THE TIMES CITY DIARY Underwritten charity

After BP, most market men are anxious to steer clear of any form of high-risk underwriting - but not four brave UK equity salesmen from Hoare Govett. Directors Richard Kelsey, James Stratton and Walter Walker and assistant director Peter Cazale - all 40 cigarettes-a-day men with the exception of cigar-puffing Kelsey - are giving up the bread and butter for 12 months from January 1, to

raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Pledges of sponsorship, on a per day basis, have come in from friends, colleagues and clients and have now topped £14,500. But should any of the quartet give in to temptation they have promised to foot the bill for their share of the sponsorship for the balance of the year. "The money is guaranteed, because we are underwriting it," says Stratton.

Head Porter

Hoare Govett, the broker, has lost the head of its gilt trading team and its deputy to Nomura Securities. Ian Abrams and his assistant, Brian Plaistowe, headed in their



"All I want for Christmas is my Porsche back."

The old pals' act

Amid the warfare between British Airways and SAS over the future ownership of B-Cal, last week's decision by Fenchurch Nominees, one of B-Cal's institutional investors, to take the money by selling a 5 per cent stake in the group to BA - for £9.5 million - was perhaps less hardheaded than it at first seemed. Fenchurch Nominees is part of merchant banking and securities group Kleinwort Benson Lonsdale, whose chairman is Robert Henderson. Henderson also happens to be deputy chairman at British Airways. But such coincidences may not be entirely one-sided. As the world awaits a decision from venture capital group 3i, which is sitting on a B-Cal stake of more than 40 per cent, it is equally interesting to remember that 3i deputy chairman Larry Tindale is a director of B-Cal - to represent 3i's interests - and has now accepted an offer to become deputy chairman of any new company formed with the help of a large SAS stake. Small world.

Let us hope that the clearing banks in Britain do not follow suit. Citibank in the US has apparently just introduced a visa credit card in conjunction with the National Football League, enabling supporters to order a card bearing the emblem and colours of their favourite club. Advertisements promoting the card claim that it encourages friendlier and more attentive service and allows you to "talk football" much more than before.

Carol Leonard

European car part makers 'must unite against Japan'

By Daniel Ward

Motor Industry Correspondent

Europe's car component makers have been warned that they must work together to compete with the Japanese.

The warning came from Signor Roberto Barberis, managing director of Magneti Marelli, Fiat's components subsidiary.

He said rationalization into a few large groups was vital as it was inevitable that Japanese component makers would follow Nissan, Honda and other Japanese car makers and set up their own plants in Europe.

The massive domination of the European industry by the West German company Robert Bosch had already forced rivals to collaborate, he said.

The cost of putting even a new alternator into production was £50 million now and it was vital to achieve high production volumes.

Economic Forestry Group, which became Britain's first quoted forestry company when it joined the Unlisted Securities Market in July, made pretax profits of £1.25 million for the year to September 27, a third better than the previous year and £151,000 more than was forecast when it came to the market.

EFG does not own plantations. It makes most of its profits from planning and maintaining forests for investors, who are drawn to forestry by the tax benefits available to higher-rate taxpayers.

It accounts for about 20 per cent of all new planting in the British private sector and is expanding its forest tree nurseries to meet rising demand. Turnover was up 15 per cent last year to £35.27 million.

The company's woodland owners were mostly covered



Barberis: too many players

Signor Barberis, whose company is Bosch's closest rival, said: "If we are able to rationalize and continue our efforts to become bigger, it is possible to be very competitive with the Japanese in Europe. But at present the European component makers are faced with enormous research and investment costs in the face of scattered volumes."

Although only a few Japanese suppliers have set up factories in Europe, Signor Barberis commented that a decision by Toyota to establish a European plant, probably in West Germany, could be the trigger for the Japanese manufacturers' traditional suppliers to set up satellite factories.

In Britain, Honda and Nissan appear to rely largely on local component makers. Nippon Seiko is to make instruments locally for Austin Rover and Honda, while two joint-venture companies make exhausts and seats for Nissan.

Having taken over both Lucas's lighting and starter motor and alternator operations in Britain, Magneti can claim 25 per cent and 30 per cent of the respective European sectors. Lucas decided there "were too many players in Europe" and opted to concentrate on brakes and diesel pumps.

Earnings per share rose by more than 25 per cent to 8.48p and a final dividend of 1.75p was made for the year, as proposed in last summer's offer document.

Alphameric's shares are valued at £3 million based on a formula using Tantis' future earnings and a proportion of Alphameric p/c ratios.

Tantis specializes in real-time data entry.

Peel rises to £4.7m at interim

Peel Holdings, the property and development company of Rochdale, Greater Manchester, made pretax profits in the half year to the end of September of £4.7 million, a rise of 24 per cent over the previous first half. Turnover rose 37 per cent to £7.8 million.

Since the end of the year, full planning consent has been granted on a number of holdings and further applications are under consideration. Peel expects a substantial uplift in asset values if a planning application on land at Andover, Hampshire, is successful. An increase in the value of the retail superstore portfolio will also increase asset values.

Sales were at record levels on the residential housing side and profitability rose. The company now has 2,305 house building plots with planning permission. The interim dividend rises to 1.75p from 1.5p.

Alphameric to buy Tantis

Alphameric, the Unlisted Securities Market manufacturer of electronic keyboards and colour terminals, is buying Tantis Microsystems for up to £3 million in shares and £120,000 cash.

Alphameric's shares are valued at £3 million based on a formula using Tantis' future earnings and a proportion of Alphameric p/c ratios.

Tantis specializes in real-time data entry.

makes early
nt advance

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gold	Prize
1	Carson Eng	Industrial E-K	1	100
2	GKN (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
3	Smith (WH) A	Industrial E-K	1	100
4	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
5	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
6	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
7	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
8	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
9	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
10	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
11	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
12	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
13	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
14	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
15	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
16	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
17	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
18	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
19	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
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22	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
23	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
24	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
25	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
26	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
27	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
28	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
29	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
30	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
31	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
32	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
33	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
34	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
35	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
36	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
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39	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
40	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
41	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
42	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
43	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
44	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
45	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
46	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
47	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
48	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
49	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100
50	Wardlaw (sa)	Industrial E-K	1	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100	100	100	100	0	0
2	100	100	100	100	0	0
3	100	100	100	100	0	0
4	100	100	100	100	0	0
5	100	100	100	100	0	0
6	100	100	100	100	0	0
7	100	100	100	100	0	0
8	100	100	100	100	0	0
9	100	100	100	100	0	0
10	100	100	100	100	0	0
11	100	100	100	100	0	0
12	100	100	100	100	0	0
13	100	100	100	100	0	0
14	100	100	100	100	0	0
15	100	100	100	100	0	0
16	100	100	100	100	0	0
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18	100	100	100	100	0	0
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21	100	100	100	100	0	0
22	100	100	100	100	0	0
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24	100	100	100	100	0	0
25	100	100	100	100	0	0
26	100	100	100	100	0	0
27	100	100	100	100	0	0
28	100	100	100	100	0	0
29	100	100	100	100	0	0
30	100	100	100	100	0	0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
1	100	100	100	100	0	0
2	100	100	100	100	0	0
3	100	100	100	100	0	0
4	100	100	100	100	0	0
5	100	100	100	100	0	0
6	100	100	100	100	0	0
7	100	100	100	100	0	0
8	100	100	100	100	0	0
9	100	100	100	100	0	0
10	100	100	100	100	0	0
11	100	100	100	100	0	0
12	100	100	100	100	0	0
13	100	100	100	100	0	0
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15	100	100	100	100	0	0
16	100	100	100	100	0	0
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22	100	100	100	100	0	0
23	100	100	100	100	0	0
24	100	100	100	100	0	0
25	100	100	100	100	0	0
26	100	100	100	100	0	0
27	100	100	100	100	0	0
28	100	100	100	100	0	0
29	100	100	100	100	0	0
30	100	100	100	100	0	0

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
1	100	100	100	100	0	0
2	100	100	100	100	0	0
3	100	100	100	100	0	0
4	100	100	100	100	0	0
5	100	100	100	100	0	0
6	100	100	100	100	0	0
7	100	100	100	100	0	0
8	100	100	100	100	0	0
9	100	100	100	100	0	0
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28	100	100	100	100	0	0
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30	100	100	100	100	0	0

UNDATED						
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25	100	100	100	100	0	0
26	100	100	100	100	0	0
27	100	100	100	100	0	0
28	100	100	100	100	0	0
29	100	100	100	100	0	0
30	100	100	100	100	0	0

INDEX-LINKED						
1	100	100	100	100	0	0
2	100	100	100	100	0	0
3	100	100	100	100	0	0
4	100	100	100	100	0	0
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14	100	100	100	100	0	0
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16	100	100	100	100	0	0
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25	100	100	100	100	0	0
26	100	100	100	100	0	0
27	100	100	100	100	0	0
28	100	100	100	100	0	0
29	100	100	100	100	0	0
30	100	100	100	100	0	0

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP						
1	100	100	100	100	0	0
2	100	100	100	100	0	0
3	100	100	100	100	0	0
4	100	100	100	100	0	0
5	100	100	100	100	0	0
6	100	100	100	100	0	0
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11	100	100	100	100	0	0
12	100	100	100	100	0	0
13	100	100	100	100	0	0
14	100	100	100	100	0	0
15	100	100	100	100	0	0
16	100	100	100	100	0	0
17	100	100	100	100	0	0
18	100	100	100	100	0	0
19	100	100	100	100	0	0

[illegible]

ALL MERCHANDISE IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. SOME ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING BRANCHES ONLY.

NEW YORK
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Press duty to expose scandal outweighs duty of confidence

Attorney General v The Observer Ltd and Others
Attorney General v The Sunday Times Newspapers Ltd and Another
Before Mr Justice Scott
[Judgment December 21]

The world-wide dissemination of information contained in *Spycatcher*, memoirs of Mr Peter Wright, a former member of MI5, sought to be banned by the Attorney General, had the result that third parties no longer had any duty of confidence in information disclosed by Mr Wright's breach of confidence in writing the book.

Mr Justice Scott held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division refusing claims by the Attorney General for permanent injunctions against the *Observer* Ltd and *Guardian* Newspapers Ltd prohibiting commenting on or reporting on the contents of *Spycatcher* and against the *Sunday Times* Ltd prohibiting further dissemination of the book in *The Sunday Times*.

The defendants in the first action included the proprietors and editors of the *Observer* and the *Guardian* newspapers and the journalists who wrote the articles that prompted the action. The defendants in the second action were the proprietors and editors of *The Sunday Times*.

Temporary injunctions against publication were renewed until the hearing of the appeal on January 18, 1988.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, Mr John Laws, Mr Philip Havers and Mr Paul Walker for the Attorney General; Mr Charles Gray, QC, Mr Desmond Browne and Miss Heather Rogers for *The Guardian* and *The Observer*; Mr Anthony Lester, QC and Mr David Pannick for *The Sunday Times*.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT said that this was the trial of the action in this country of the Government's case against certain newspapers seeking to prevent their reporting on the contents of *Spycatcher* by Peter Wright, a former member of the secret services.

However, the hearing had been preceded by several interlocutory applications eight appeals to the Court of Appeal and to the House of Lords. Consequently the facts were well known and the important issues raised had already been much judicially analysed and commented upon.

The question for his Lordship was whether and to what extent the newspapers were under a duty to the Crown not to repeat or further disseminate the contents of Mr Wright's book.

It was a puzzling feature of the history of the matter that the Government had taken no steps to exercise the statutory powers available to it to prohibit importation of the book into this country.

It had taken steps, by means of warning letters to booksellers in this country, to keep copies of *Spycatcher* off United Kingdom bookshelves. It had taken steps to prevent public libraries from making copies of the book available to the public.

It had taken, and was taking,

strenuous steps to prevent newspapers in this country from carrying extracts from the book or commenting on its contents. But it had not sought to prevent importation of the book. Anyone who wanted a copy was at liberty to order one from one of the United States booksellers and hundreds of people in this country had done so.

Furthermore, many of the allegations contained in *Spycatcher*, and all of the more obviously important ones, had been made previously in one or more of the many published books or television programmes purporting to deal with the affairs of MI5 and MI6 in the post-war period.

The 12 books included *A Matter of Trust* by Nigel West and *The Trade Is Treacher* and *Too Secret Too Long*, both by Chapman Pincher. The television programmes included a Granada TV programme broadcast on June 16, 1986 entitled *The Spy Who Never Was* which featured a long interview with Mr Wright.

The strenuous action by the Attorney General to prevent publication of *Spycatcher* or of any newspaper comment on its content bore a marked contrast to the action or lack of it taken in relation to many of those works.

The reasons put forward explaining such inconsistency were shallow and unconvincing. In short, to a considerable extent, previous publications of allegations similar to those contained in *Spycatcher* had resulted from deliberate decisions taken by the Government not to interfere.

In essence the Crown's case was that, notwithstanding the world-wide dissemination of the book, the United States publication, the newspapers knew that that represented a continuing breach by Mr Wright of his duty to the Crown, and could not treat the book as a mere piece of information. As a result, the breach of duty from its confidential character. They remained, therefore, themselves under a duty not to disclose the information further.

National security was the basis of the Crown's case. Secret services had to be secret. But at the heart of the widespread publication of the information was no longer secret. Thus the national security argument had undergone a curious metamorphosis.

The case was put thus: national security required an efficient MI5 and unless permanent injunctions were granted MI5 and its efficiency would be damaged in the following ways: the morale of loyal members of the service would suffer; other members of the service might be tempted to breach duty by publishing memoirs; publishers of illegal memoirs would be encouraged; media pressure on other members of the service to reply to allegations in *Spycatcher* would mount; security services in other countries would lose confidence in MI5; and potential informers would lose confidence in MI5.

In short the permanent injunctions were sought not in

Mr Justice Scott's conclusions were:

1 Mr Wright committed a breach of his duty of confidence in writing *Spycatcher* and having it published. His breach of duty had made him accountable for any profit thereby made. If used in this country, permanent injunctions would be granted against him.

2 *The Guardian* and *The Observer* were not in breach of duty in publishing the articles about the Australian *Spycatcher* case in their respective editions of June 23, 1987 and June 22, 1987.

3 *The Sunday Times* was in breach of duty in publishing in the edition of July 12, 1987 the first instalment of its intended serialisation of *Spycatcher*. The Attorney General's claim for an account of profits thereby made succeeds.

4 The duty of confidence incurred by the newspapers when they respectively received information about the contents of *Spycatcher* or a copy of the manuscript of *Spycatcher*, as the case may be, did not extend to the allegations about the plot to assassinate President Nasser, nor to the allegations about the plot to destabilise the Wilson Government, nor for different reasons, to the allegations about Soviet penetration of MI5.

5 The publication and world-wide dissemination of *Spycatcher* and the information therein contained had the result that there is no longer any duty of confidence lying on newspapers or other third parties in relation to the information contained in the book. The Attorney General's claim for permanent injunctions, therefore, fails.

order to preserve the secret character of information that ought to be kept secret but in order to promote the efficiency and reputation of MI5.

The basis of the newspapers' argument was the freedom of the Press.

His Lordship could not accept either the Government's claim for absolute secrecy of the secret services (which would be achieved this side of the Iron Curtain) nor the newspapers' claim for absolute Press freedom to publish.

Society had to pay a price both for freedom of the Press and for national security. The price to be paid for an efficient and secure Security Service would be some loss in the freedom of the Press to publish what it chose.

The price to be paid for free speech and a free Press in a democratic society would be the loss of some degree of secrecy about the affairs of Government, including the Security Service. A balance had to be struck between the two competing public interests.

Each side, the Government on the one hand and the Press on the other, was entitled to assert its view of the relative values of those particular interests and of the extent to which one had to give way to the other.

It was open to Parliament, if wished, to impose guidelines. The United States Congress had done so in the form of the First Amendment. Parliament had not. So it was for the courts to strike the balance.

It was unacceptable that newspapers and their editors should be judges in their own cause of the restraints on freedom of the Press that the national security might require. It was equally unacceptable that the Government's position of what national security required should be decided by the courts. The limitation that had to be imposed on freedom of speech or of the Press.

The court had to strike the balance by applying principles of law. A duty of confidence to an

employer was familiar in a commercial context. The nature of the information entitled to protection and the degree of its confidentiality would depend on the facts of each case.

There were relatively few authorities in which the duty of confidence had been discussed in connection with secrets of Government. But such cases as there were supported, he thought, his Lordship's approach: see *Attorney General v Jonathan Cape Ltd* (1976) QB 752, 770-1; *The Commonwealth of Australia v Fairfax* (1980) 147 CLR 39, 48.

It was clear and well established law that a third party who came into possession of confidential information by means of a breach of confidence owed a duty to respect the confidentiality. But, on the other hand, there were cases where third parties coming into possession of confidential information were not only entitled to use that information but might even be under a duty to do so.

A striking example of this was *R v Tomkins* (1977) 67 Cr App R 181. A confidential note passed by the defendant to his counsel fortuitously found its way into the hands of prosecuting counsel.

It was held that prosecuting counsel was entitled to use the note. The public interest in the administration of justice outweighed the private interest of the defendant that his note should be preserved: compare

ITC Ltd v Video Exchange Ltd (1982) Ch 431. That showed that the duty of confidence owed by the original possessor did not necessarily lie on every third party who came into possession of the confidential information.

For it to do so, the circumstances had to be such as to raise "an obligation of conscience" affecting the third party. Public interest might apply to the information in the hands of the third party that did not apply to the information in the hands of the original confidant.

In the present case the third parties were newspapers. News-gathering and a legitimate role in a free society in bringing before the public information which might not otherwise be accessible to the public.

That was not to say that the interests of the public in the news and in the security of the state were not to be curtailed. But the balance to be struck was between the Government and an officer of MI5 was not an identical balance to that which had to be struck between the Government and the Press.

Where a duty of confidence was sought to be enforced against a newspaper which had come into possession of confidential information knowing it to be confidential, the existence and scope of the alleged duty would depend on the relative weight of the public or private interests for the protection of which the duty was claimed on the one hand, and of the public or private interests to be protected by disclosure of the information on the other hand.

The newspaper's duty would not necessarily be coterminous with the duty on its informant, the confidant. His Lordship then applied those principles to the facts. The question he had to answer was whether the articles in *The Guardian* on June 23, 1986 and *The Observer* on June 22, 1986 represented a breach of an obligation of confidence owed to the Crown.

Each article was a report of the forthcoming court hearing in Australia. Each article referred to the more newsworthy allegations made by Mr Wright in the book which was the subject of the litigation.

The litigation in Australia was a matter of legitimate interest to the public. The disclosure of legitimate information by the Press. The Press were entitled and bound to report what was happening, to inform the public of the issues raised by the litigation and to comment on those issues.

In the course of so doing it would be inevitable that the Press would have to give an indication in general terms of the contents of the book.

His Lordship had to examine the article and ask himself whether it represented a fair report of the substance of the Australian trial. In his judgment, it did.

The allegations made by Mr Wright in *Spycatcher* were referred to in very general descriptive terms. Very little, if anything, in the way of detail was disclosed. The articles did

not go beyond the fair reporting of the nature of the case.

The duty of confidence lying on the newspapers as the recipients of Mr Wright's unauthorized disclosures was not broken by fair reporting of that character. If that were not so, it would require the conclusion that the Press of this country could not inform the public of this country of the court action brought by the Attorney General in Australia.

His Lordship then turned to individual allegations made by Peter Wright and reported in the newspaper articles and the specific considerations that applied to them.

In particular the allegation that a plot to assassinate President Nasser was hatched and was being seriously considered by those in authority was, in his opinion, the allegation of information of a high order. It would have been a monstrous thing and a stain on this country's honour, if such a plot had been put into execution.

His Lordship hoped the allegation was untrue. But whether the allegation was true or untrue the duty of confidence could not, in his opinion, be said to be broken by the Press informing the public that the allegation had been made.

The allegation of the plot by MI5 officers to destabilise the Wilson Government raised analogous but different considerations. The activities of the officers, if they took place, could not, in his judgment, be protected by a duty of confidence.

They would have been in breach of the Maxwell Fyfe Convention. They would have been potentially damaging, and unless checked, destructive of our democratic system of government.

The allegations were not new. They had been made before and the Prime Minister had reported to Parliament that they had been investigated and found to be groundless. Nonetheless the editors contended that if the allegations were repeated by an insider the Press ought to be entitled to report that fact.

His Lordship agreed. The Press had a legitimate role in disclosing scandals in Government. An open democratic society required that that be so.

If an allegation be made by an insider that, if true, would be a scandal, it would be a scandal of the Crown of their powers and functions, and the allegation came to the attention of the Press, the duty of confidence could not be used to prevent the Press from reporting the allegation.

It was argued for the Crown that the Government ought not to be exposed to the pressure and embarrassment that mischievous and untrue allegations by insiders might produce.

But the legitimate purpose of the duty of confidence imposed on members and ex-members of MI5 was to preserve the secrecy of MI5's affairs and thereby to enable it to operate efficiently.

The purpose was not to save the government of the day from pressure or embarrassment. Second, and more important, the ability of the Press freely to

report allegations of scandals in Government was one of the bulwarks of our democratic society. It could not happen in totalitarian countries.

If the price that had to be paid was the exposure of the government of the day to pressure or embarrassment when mischievous and false allegations were made, then, that price had to be paid.

The first extract of the serialisation of the book appeared in *The Sunday Times* on July 12. His Lordship found that neither Mr Andrew Neil, its editor, nor any member of his editorial staff gave any critical assessment as to which parts raised issues of important matters of public interest on which the public should form a judgment for themselves and which parts were simply unauthorised disclosures of confidential information.

That extract was indiscreet and accordingly its publication represented a breach of duty owed by *The Sunday Times*.

A further consequence of that publication was that the Attorney General was entitled to payment of profits, if any, made out of the publication.

Mr Alexander submitted that the newspapers could be in no better position than Mr Wright. His Lordship did not accept that that was so. The publication in *The Sunday Times* could be set aside as *de minimis*.

Additionally, the balance to be struck between national security needs and the freedom of the Press was not the same as that to be struck between national security needs and Mr Wright's freedom of expression. The Press had an important and legitimate role.

His Lordship found words of Lord Oliver in *Attorney General v Guardian Newspapers Ltd and Others* (1987) 1 WLR 1288 apt to the present case. Lord Oliver said that once information had travelled into the public domain by whatever means and was the subject matter of public discussion, it was unacceptable that publication and discussion in the Press in this country should be further restrained.

For the reasons expressed by Lord Oliver the newspapers were not under any duty now to refrain from disclosing or reporting on the information contained in the book.

The Attorney General's case for injunctions did not draw any distinction between reporting on the contents of the book and serialisation of it. It therefore followed that the claim for permanent injunctions failed.

His Lordship set out his five conclusions and conclusions. The conclusion of those conclusions was that third parties could publish and distribute *Spycatcher* in England, notwithstanding that Mr Wright and his agents could still be restrained from doing so.

The position of third parties did not depend upon whether they had bought the right to publish the book or simply elected to do so. *The Sunday Times* was in no worse position than other newspapers because it agreed to pay Mr Wright for serialisation rights.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Lovell White & King, Theodore Goddard.

That anomaly arose because the Crown did not claim to be entitled to equity to the copyright. If it were, it could restrain publication or serialisation of the book, leaving newspapers free to comment and report thereon as permitted by section 6 of the Copyright Act 1956.

But confidential information, unlike copyright, had no firm proprietary existence and fact was supported by proprietary remedies once the duty of confidence had gone.

There was one final matter. The Attorney General feared that Mr Wright was contemplating publication of his memoirs and did not want it published in England, at least until the courts had adjudicated on the propriety of publication. He feared that the newspapers might preempt any court decision by publishing without any advance publicity that might alert the Attorney General and enable him to seek an interlocutory injunction.

Those fears were not without foundation. Mr Treford indicated that he opposed in principle any judicially imposed prior restraint so Mr Laws asked for an injunction restraining the newspapers from publishing any part of *Spycatcher* 2, without first informing the Attorney General.

His Lordship sympathized with the Attorney General. A responsible newspaper ought not to publish unauthorised disclosures without first giving careful consideration to the question, whether the public interest factors in favour of publication outweighed the national security interest that such disclosures should not be made public, and second, without giving notice to the Attorney General to the Treasury Solicitor so that the courts could resolve any dispute.

The editors had forcefully represented that the Government ought not to be allowed to wield national security interests so as to stifle newspapers in placing before the public matters which required in the public interest to be so placed. Conversely, newspaper editors should not abuse Press freedom by publicly disclosing confidential information that, in the interests of national security, should remain secret.

For those reasons his Lordship was in sympathy with the purpose of the proposed injunction. But it was a long established rule that the courts did not answer hypothetical questions and did not grant injunctions on issues that had not yet arisen. None of the newspapers had threatened to publish *Spycatcher* 2. There was nothing to suggest that it had yet been written.

No one knew what, if it had been written, it contained. No one knew what part or parts of it, if it had been written, the newspapers might want to publish. So his Lordship declined to grant the injunction. However, the remedy of an account of profits and its deterrent effect was available.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Lovell White & King, Theodore Goddard.

Valuation disclaimer prevents suit

Harris and Another v Wyre Forest District Council and Another
Before Lord Justice Kerr, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Causfield
[Judgment December 17]

Where a mortgagee local authority expressly disclaimed liability to the purchaser mortgagee in respect of the valuation there was no rule of public policy or otherwise under which the local authority would owe a duty to the mortgagee and would be answerable to him for its surveyor's wrong report in respect of the value of the property. Such a surveyor owed no duty of care to the mortgagee.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the defendants, Wyre Forest District Council and Mr Trevor Lee, from an order dated November 24, 1986, of Mr Justice Schiemann.

In an action by the plaintiffs, Mr Adam Charles Harris and Mrs Kim Harris, for damages for loss and expense caused by the negligence of Mr Lee, surveyor and agent of the council in carrying out his survey of the premises known as 74 George Street, Kidderminster, and prior to the plaintiffs' purchase of the property, the judge awarded the plaintiffs damages of £12,000, inclusive of interest.

Bearing in mind that the House of Lords had given leave to appeal in *Smith v Eric S. Bush* (1987) 3 WLR 889; [1987] 1510 the court gave leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Mr Piers Ashworth, QC and Mr Nicholas J. Worsley for the defendants; Mr Robert Johnson, QC and Mr Malcolm Stitt for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that a house purchaser had, in reliance on a valuation made without due care by an officer of a local authority advancing money on mortgage under the Housing Acts, proceeded with his purchase and suffered damage in consequence.

In *Odder v Westbourne Park Building Society* (1955) 165 EG 261, a comparable action against a building society described by Mr Justice Harman as "unheard of", it was said that decisions subsequent to *Hedley Byrne & Co Ltd v Heller & Partners Ltd* (1964) AC 465, in particular, *Ylvisaker v Edwin Evans & Sons* (1982) QB 438, had now established that the action would lie.

In 1978 the plaintiffs, then a young couple who were thinking of getting married, were looking in Kidderminster for a house costing less than £10,000. They were looking at Victorian terraced houses and had thought

that the most suitable source of finance was the local council.

At that time, the council, like many other local authorities, had a policy of making loans to intending purchasers of older, small residential properties, on the security of which banks and building societies were in general unwilling to lend.

The details of the council's scheme were set out in a document which was available to interested parties but the plaintiffs never saw it and no steps had been taken by the council to bring it to their notice.

Eventually, the plaintiffs selected the property. The selling agent, with the help of the council's standard mortgage application forms which were signed by the plaintiffs.

Immediately above the signatures the form carried these words: "To be read carefully and signed by all applicants. I/We enclose herewith the valuation fee and administration fee £22. I/We understand that this fee is not returnable even if the council do not eventually make an advance and that the valuation is confidential and is intended solely for the information of Wyre Forest District Council in determining what advance, if any, may be made on the security and that no responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the council for the value or condition of the property by reason of such inspection and report. [You are advised for your own protection to instruct your own surveyor/architect to inspect the property.] I/We agree that the valuation report is the property of the council and that I/we cannot require its production."

In due course the council arranged for Mr Lee to inspect and value the property. He was employed by the council as a valuation surveyor. He was not a building surveyor. He inspected the property and prepared his report. He valued the house at the asking price of £9,450 and recommended a loan of 90 per cent of the valuation for a maximum period of 25 years.

Under the heading "Essential repairs" he wrote: "Obtain repairs for [the council] from Midland Electricity Board regarding electricity and carry out any recommendations. Make good mortar fillets to extension."

The council offered to advance the money for the purchase of the property. The council's undertaking to carry out within 12 months thereafter the work detailed there. That was the work recommended by Mr Lee. The plaintiffs signed the undertaking on completion of the purchase.

In November 1981 the plaintiffs put the property on the market. The council's valuation was £9,450. The council's valuation was £9,450. The council's valuation was £9,450.

market. In April 1982 some prospective purchasers applied to the council for a disclaimer in respect of the property. Mr Lee made a further inspection and valued it at £13,750.

But because of a problem with settlement at the next-door property which had been experienced in February 1981 Mr Lee recommended that the whole of the proposed loan should be retained until a structural survey report by an independent architect or structural engineer had been obtained and any recommended work carried out.

A structural survey revealed the need for repairs and that the cost of the recommended works would run into many thousands of pounds. That meant that the council were unable to lend and the plaintiffs were unable to complete the purchase. The council's own building surveyor confirmed the position.

The plaintiffs submitted that, being under a duty to others to make a valuation which they knew would necessarily come to the knowledge of the plaintiffs, the defendants owed to them a duty to make it with care. The question was whether a duty was owed.

That question had to be answered by an application of established principles relating to negligent misstatements which depended on there being a duty of care between the maker and the recipient of the statement.

It was here that difficulty was most often caused, sometimes because the statement lacked the necessary gravity of purpose or occasion and at others because it was available to a wider class of recipients than those towards whom a duty could with justice be considered.

In attempting to resolve one or other of those difficulties in the present case, the judge had based his decision on a more general statement of what was required to constitute the necessary proximity: see *Hedley Byrne* (at p 539) per Lord Pearce. But it had been held that in some circumstances the liability could extend to cases where the maker of the statement was under a duty to make it: see *Ministry of Housing and Local Government v Sharp* (1970) 2 QB 223.

The essential question was: were the circumstances such that the defendants ought reasonably to have recognised both the importance which would be attached to Mr Lee's valuation by the plaintiffs and the council's own answerability to them in making it?

It was clear that the material words of disclaimer in the mortgage application form were directly in point and were of fundamental importance in deciding whether the council

owed a duty of care to the plaintiffs.

It was impossible to say that the council ought reasonably to have recognised their own answerability to the plaintiffs in making the valuation. By statute they owed no duty to them.

By the terms of the mortgage application form it was clear that no responsibility whatsoever was implied or accepted by them for the value or condition of the property by reason of the inspection and report, even if they were made without due care.

There was no rule, whether of public policy or otherwise, against the defendants acting in that way. Indeed, it was of the essence of the decision in *Hedley Byrne* that they were at liberty to do so.

Thus the council never came under a duty of care to the plaintiffs. Moreover, the disclaimer was as effective in the case of Mr Lee as an individual defendant as it was in the case of the council. He was at all times acting as a servant of the council who could only reasonably have been expected to act through servants.

It followed that *Ylvisaker v Edwin Evans & Sons*, where the defendant was disclaimed liability by or on behalf of the defendants, was distinguishable from the present case.

LORD JUSTICE KERR, concurring, observed that in fairness to the judge his approach to the instant case was clearly conditioned by the state of the authorities as they then stood.

The well known passage in the speech of Lord Wilberforce in *Angus v Merton London Borough Council* (1978) AC 728, 751, to which the judge referred, had not yet been subjected to the further restricting analysis which was to be found in the decision of the Privy Council in *Yuen Kun Yeu v Attorney General of Hong Kong* (1978) 1 WLR 11, 1987; (1987) 3 WLR 776.

Above all, however, the judge was understandably influenced to a great extent by the second part of the Court of Appeal in *Northern Ireland v Irish Northern Ireland Co-ownership Housing Association Ltd*. But that part of the decision went to appeal and had since been reversed by the House of Lords (April 9, 1987; (1987) 2 WLR 1043).

It was highly doubtful whether the judge would have reached the same conclusion if he had had the benefit of that decision.

Mr Justice Causfield gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Rawleys & Rawleys, Birmingham; Thelford & Adams, Kidderminster.

Capital duty on company merger

J. Rothschild Holdings plc v Inland Revenue Commissioners
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment December 14]

The exemption from capital duty on company merger transactions provided for by paragraph 10 of Schedule 19 to the Finance Act 1973 applied only to mergers in which a company acquired not less than 75 per cent of another company's issued share capital. It could not apply where 75 per cent requirement was only satisfied by acquisition of a number of separate share allotments made in the course of a merger and, for the purposes of complying with section 47(1) of the Act, recording them on a single "PUC" return form.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by the taxpayer company, J. Rothschild Holdings plc.

The company, J. Rothschild Holdings plc, had acquired not less than 75 per cent of the share capital of the company, namely an increase in its capital.

Under the terms of an agreed merger designed to make RIT and Northern plc (RITN) a member of the Charterhouse Group plc, the taxpayer company offered the shareholders of RITN 227 shares for every 100 shares held by them. The offer was made on a non-reciprocal basis on December 19, 1983 and 145,655,222 shares in the taxpayer company were allotted for 64,165,296 shares in RITN.

The allotment was made in exchange for a contribution of assets, the allotment and the contribution together constituted a chargeable transaction.

If those assets were shares in another company the transaction would be exempt only if by virtue of it the company making the allotment acquired the better part of the issued share capital of the other company equal to 75 per cent of its issued share capital. On December 19, the Crown said, an allotment of shares of the taxpayer company was made in exchange for less than 75 per cent of RITN's share capital.

Mr Stanley Brodie, QC, Mr Gerald Barling and Mr Reginald Nock for the taxpayer company; Mr John Mummery and Mr Nicholas Warren for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that the Crown's case was that an increase in the capital of a company was effected when shares in that company were allotted and, in turn, an "allotment" took place when the directors of a company resolved that the amount of securities for which the subscribers had applied (or a less amount of them in the case of a takeover) should be apportioned to the subscribers out of the total number of securities available (see *Pennington's Company Law* 3rd edn (1985) at p 339).

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virtue of the transaction, a capital company which in the process of being formed or already in existence.

(i) has acquired share capital of another company capital to the extent that, after the transaction, not less than 75 per cent of the issued share capital of that company is beneficially owned by the first company.

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Edited by Matthew May

COMPUTER HORIZONS

Fraud that could be stopped

THE WEEK

By Matthew May

The risk of computer fraud is increasing because managers and auditors are unable to keep up with the speed of technological change. This is the verdict of the Audit Commission, which last week published an extensive survey into the topic, covering more than 1,200 organizations.

Nine in 10 respondents believed they had not suffered from computer fraud but of 55 reported incidents where financial loss occurred, a total of £2.5 million was lost — the largest case involving more than £1 million. The total number of frauds detected was 118, although only 38 of the firms prosecuted those responsible.

The report describes "a disturbing lack of basic control mechanism" and says that virtually all the frauds could have been prevented if one person did not have absolute control over the functions of a particular process.

Computer fraud is divided into three main types although over 90 per cent of the amount lost has been from input fraud. One of the highest risks of fraud comes at this manual stage

where users can alter, delete data or enter information.

But equally inadequacies in supervision, division of duties and the control of unauthorized input were all cited as factors that enabled the fraud to be committed. Program fraud — which involves accessing and altering programs — is perceived as the most common computer crime, but ac-

counted for only £100,000 of the £2.5 million loss.

Computer hacking is also seen as one of the most common acts of computer abuse. Yet, as the report says, "some incidents are committed by merely inquisitive computer enthusiasts." It also predicts that hacking is bound to rise with the increase in desktop computers.

Though hackers rarely see any financial gain from their activities, the associated costs for the victim firm of recovering from such mischief can be high. One external hacker who gained

access to a company's mailbox system cost the company more than £20,000 in work needed to correct the system.

Another example was that of a computer operator in central government who set up fictitious taxpayer records such as Abominable Snowman, Father Christmas and Spiderman although he also tried to convert genuine records using a manager's password.

Internal controls by companies discovered only half of the frauds looked at with a further 30 per cent from information received. That a large number of frauds were discovered only by accidental detection was a further indictment of the inadequacy of internal controls, says the commission. Also worrying, it said, was that a quarter of the frauds involved senior people — management or supervisors.

© The Audit Commission Computer Fraud Survey is published by HMSO at £9.50

Types of Incident	1987		1984		1981	
	Number	£ lost	Number	£ lost	Number	£ lost
Input fraud	57	2,381,700	58	901,000	42	858,200
Hacking	35	100	—	—	—	—
Theft/private work	22	34,500	17	2,300	22	17,400
Program fraud	3	101,000	—	—	1	26,000
Output fraud	1	44,000	2	230,200	2	3,600
Total	118	2,581,200	77	1,133,500	67	885,200

Source: Audit Commission

That unused gentle touch for technology

TRAINING

By Peta Levi

When a full-time, 20-week course to train men and women to become computer engineering technicians was advertised, only one woman replied.

However, an advertisement for two part-time, 36-week courses for women only attracted 200 replies for 20 places.

This was the experience of Computer Park, a Northamptonshire company which provides a range of training courses.

In this instance the courses were for the Manpower Services Commission (MSC), but Computer Park also organizes courses ranging from YTS awareness packages to industrial training on computers and holiday courses for children.

Training manager Allen Carter says: "Women are as capable as men in all aspects of computing and engineering. The women who applied for

the part-time course did not need any previous experience and were aged between 25 and 40, many with school-age children.

Thirty-year-old graduate Sharon Catt had to leave her job as a research physicist at St Thomas' in London to follow her husband, whose career took him to Wellesborough. With no hope of a local academic job, Sharon saw the course as a means to retrain to become a technical writer.

One problem, she says, is whether employers will recognize the course, since there is no examination. However, 35-year-old Beverley Gattier, with three children aged two to 11 and no previous training, already has a part-time job as a resource assistant at Prince William School, Oundle.

She is one of five out of eight on her course who have already found jobs. One of those jobs is for a security equipment company; when the woman can work mostly from home, assembling and testing electronic equipment.



Andrew Machin, the tutor, helping Jane Devine on Computer Park's course for training women computer engineering technicians

The women were selected during two open weekends. During each weekend around 20 of the first 50 women who applied were given some practical work with computing and electronics, to give them a chance to see if they would be interested and to allow the tutors the opportunity to assess which of the women would be likely to benefit most.

The course consists of three modules: basic electronics,

digital electronics, processors, fault location and repair. Each module is introduced over a week-end session. Each week 15 hours homework has to be done and there are two three-hour evening sessions. The women chose the hours 7 to 10pm, which gave those with families time to get children to bed.

The main criticism of the course is the poor quality of the written material, on which Computer Park has sent

a great deal of time correcting for the second course.

Mr Carter comments: "There are very few suitable teaching packages on the market — we picked the most professional and would use the home kits again."

One trainee who reckons she is very privileged to have been selected, 41-year-old Jane Devine, divorced and with a grown-up son, has been unemployed for a year.

How to win that tartan badge of acceptance

If you come from the Home Counties but you want to work in Scotland, the Scots would consider this suspicious behaviour. You would really have to convince them that you had a good reason to work in Scotland.

Despite the shortages of skilled computer staff, the Scots are not following the London trend of increasing salaries to attract staff. Their priorities seem to be stability and a real career path. They tend to frown on the permanent staff who change jobs every year.

Niall Livingstone, managing director of Scottish recruitment consultants, Niall Livingstone Associates, said that his company always has to ask why an English person is looking for work in Scotland, where pay rates may not be as high.

"If he's a keen hillwalker or salmon fisher then he's got a reason, but otherwise we fear he may have burnt his boats



Niall Livingstone: A close look at motives

says Lorna Fletcher, recruitment consultant at the Edinburgh branch of the UNG group.

One problem with employing contractors from the south is that if they find a contract down south they may exercise their option to quit the Scottish job. "Companies do not want a contract team whose heart isn't there and who aren't going to stay, because extensions of contracts are often required," said Mr Livingstone.

In practice, when Scottish jobs are advertised by recruitment agencies, it's mainly the ex-pats who apply. "Ex-pat Scots are our best bet for the long term, although people from the North of England also go down a treat," according to Mr Livingstone.

Scotland's education system is cited as one reason why the country seems to produce more than its fair share of bright graduates. They may find it difficult to get their first job locally so they go south for the first two years, to gain the experience, then want to return to Scotland later.

But there is another side of this coin. Mr Alex McDonald, a Scottish recruitment consultant who was himself a contractor, said that one of the reasons the Scottish companies weren't willing to pay high rates was because they had such a good supply of raw graduates — these people go into banks and building societies for two or three years to build experience, then go south to earn money. Later they may come back — and

may have to take a salary drop.

Although there's a skills shortage throughout Scotland, companies are refusing to buy in skills, according to the recruitment agencies. If a programmer is currently earning £16,000 — and on the Scottish company's salary structure he should be on £14,000 — then that is all he would be offered.

"I had a systems programmer earning £14,400 and who was offered only £11,800 plus benefits, and he refused it. If you're used to having more money it's difficult to readjust," said Ms Fletcher.

In Scotland salaries generally range from £12,000 to £15,000 for programmers with four or five years' experience. For systems analysts it's £14,000 to £17,000. In Aberdeen these people would be at the higher ends of these ranges. "In general salaries in Edinburgh and Glasgow compare well with England, apart from London. The country regions offer much lower pay than in the Home Counties. But salaries are still inflated in Aberdeen," said Mr Livingstone.

Contractors are, according to a National Computing Centre survey, earning more in Scotland than elsewhere in the country. The Scottish recruitment agencies say this may be true in Aberdeen, but elsewhere contract pay is probably about the same.

The analyst programmer with three to five years' experience may earn £750 per week, and programmers earn £550 to £600 per week. Those in Aberdeen can add on an extra £100 per week.

Another characteristic of Scottish companies, particularly the financial institutions in Edinburgh, is that they like people to stay for a long period.

There is a growing number of ex-pat Scots who would like to set up home in Scotland. This includes those living in England, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Europe and who decide to move back to Scotland. According to Mr Livingstone, "They are often pleasantly surprised at the opportunities here."

Self-improvement for Christmas

By Frank Brown

This Christmas software firms hope that the increasing use of personal computers in the home will provide a boom for many new and unusual packages that have been introduced in recent weeks.

Compared with previous years' yuletide offerings, they cover a much greater diversity

of subjects, games being significantly outnumbered by packages for self-improvement and use in the home.

Dynamic Reader, by Evelyn Wood of Timework, for example, claims to improve reading skills, even to the extent of reading and fully comprehending an 86,000-word novel in only 10 minutes.

The £45 package is based on the concept of reading dynamics. This, the publishers say, enables you to use more mental capacity and improve concentration to register every word, idea and shade of meaning in a text much faster than before.

Another mentally stimulating package, at £38, is Mentor. It is aimed at fitness freaks who run, ride a bike, do aerobics or isometrics, or work out at a health club.

It consists of a psychometric program of more than 50 psychological tests and exercises for enhancing mental faculties. They are supposed to enable you to improve memory, problem-solving skills and co-ordination.

For those on a diet, there is Master Control, a £15 physician-designed diet and ex-

ercise program aimed at teaching the principles of behaviour modification, as opposed to fad dieting.

Based on a personal profile created by the purchaser at the outset, the program promises to explore the causes of becoming overweight and provide steps towards permanent weight control.

Facilities to help include a diet diary, a weight diary and a 3,000-item database of the calorie counts of different foods, which tells you a McDonald's Big Mac, for example, is a whopping 563.

As well as packages for showing you how to keep fit and healthy there are programs to help you better manage your time.

Wise Ware's Prime Time for example, is a £75 time management program which provides for goal setting, the organization of an agenda and schedule planning.

Claimed to succeed where others have failed, it keeps a record of what you have done, gives warning of schedule conflicts and reminds you of commitments and special events.

Packages for use in the home include the £60 Housecall, which is said to convert a

personal computer into a home medical encyclopedia, providing information on 400 medical conditions which are indexed by symptom rather than topic.

You tell the computer how you feel in a two or three minute dialogue, and Housecall gives a likely diagnosis, plus a screenful of facts relating to the possible condition.

Other packages now available offer the opportunity to acquire various skills. Computer Easy's £15 Dream House is to assist the budding architect in designing houses, extensions, patios, landscapes — in fact almost anything created with floor plans. It includes an energy questionnaire for finding ways to cut energy bills.

Zephyr Services £19 Horoscopes is aimed at PC users wanting to be budding astrologists. It produces horoscopes simply by entering a name, date and time of birth.

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If you have the ability to lead and achieve change in provision of services to mentally ill people, to involve a wide range of agencies and individuals in that change and to promote mental health, then ring Christine Love, Director of Personnel, for further written information. Potential candidates who wish to discuss the post are welcome to contact Derek Smith, District General Manager.

Applications, including details of your career and achievements to date, should be sent to: Mrs I. C. Love, Director of Personnel, South Bedfordshire Health Authority, Bute House, 7 Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds. LU1 1BB, Tel: (0552) 37121, ext. 311. Not later than 11 January 1988.

SDHA

LA COMISION DE LAS COMUNIDADES EUROPEAS

organiza concursos de méritos
reservados a nacionales espa-
ñoles (m/f) para 2 puestos de

JEFE DE DIVISION (A3)

(formación universitaria indis-
pensable, 15 años de experien-
cia profesional).

Para los detalles solicitar los
anuncios de concurso a:

Commission des Communautés européennes, Division Recrutement,
rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 BRUXELLES. Tél.: 02/235.11.11.

A COMISSÃO DAS COMUNIDADES EUROPEIAS

organiza concursos documen-
tais reservados a nacionais por-
tugueses (m/f) para 1 lugar de

CHEFE DE DIVISÃO (A3)

(formação universitária indis-
pensável, 15 anos de experiên-
cia profissional).

Para mais informações peça o
aviso de concurso a:

Commission des Communautés européennes, Division Recrutement,
rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 BRUXELLES. Tél.: 02/235.11.11.

CSIRO RESEARCH FELLOW ELECTROCHEMIST/ CHEMIST

(Batteries for Remote-Area
Power Supplies)

\$A28,629 - \$A35,203 P.A.

DIVISION OF MINERAL CHEMISTRY
PORT MELBOURNE, VICTORIA,
AUSTRALIA

FIELD: Properties and performance of lead/acid
batteries.

GENERAL: The Division of Mineral Chemistry
conducts research in the fields of storage batteries,
industrial minerals and advanced mineral products.
Its base of research skills includes electrochemistry,
metallurgical chemistry, solid-state chemistry,
chemical thermodynamics and mineralogy. The
base is supported by extensive instrumental
analytical, electronics, computing, library and
engineering services.

THE JOB: The Division requires a Research
Scientist to join a team concerned with expanding
markets for Australian base-metal production
through improvement of the international position
of its battery industry. The appointee's particular
task will be to evaluate and extend the performance
of existing and advanced lead/acid technologies
for use in stand-alone power systems for supplying
electricity to people residing in remote areas.
Activities will involve the use of equipment designed
to study electrochemical processes, and of analy-
tical facilities such as X-ray diffractometers and
electron microscopes. This is an exciting and
challenging position and the appointee will be
expected to liaise with battery manufacturers and
organisations involved with the development and
promotion of such power systems, and to prepare
results for both confidential reports and journal
papers.

THE PERSON: A Ph. D. degree or equivalent
qualification in chemistry, chemical engineering or
metallurgy. Research background in electro-
chemistry would be an advantage.

CONDITIONS: A term of 3 years, with Australian
Government superannuation benefits available.

MORE INFORMATION: The selection criteria and
job description for the position are available on-
request - telephone (613) 847-0211.

APPLICATIONS: Should relate to the selection cri-
teria and state relevant personal particulars
including details of qualifications and experience,
plus the names of at least two professional referees.
Please quote reference number M8406 and address
applications to:

The Chief,
CSIRO Division of Mineral Chemistry,
P.O. Box 224,
Port Melbourne, Vic. 3207, Australia
by 4 January, 1988.

CSIRO IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Head of Hospitality London

The British Council is an independent body
which promotes Britain abroad. It promotes
British ideas, skills and experience - in
Education, the English language, the arts, the
sciences and technology. We have a vacancy for
an experienced person as Head of Hospitality.

The successful applicant will lead a small
section responsible for arranging lunches,
receptions, dinners, theatre visits etc. He or
she must have a good working knowledge of
food and wines, protocol and the dietary
restrictions of other nationalities. He or
she will be required to liaise with caterers,
wine merchants, livery halls, hotels and
restaurants and to supervise the stock of
equipment, linen and wines and spirits.

Applicants should have a good general
education and at least 2 years recent
experience in official entertainment
and/or catering.

In addition to the starting salary of \$8,777
there is an accountable dress allowance of
up to \$200.

For further information, Staff Recruitment
Section, The British Council, write
quoting G/5 to Personnel Management
Department, 65 Davies Street,
London W1T 2AA.

Closing date for applications is 14 January 1988.

The British Council is an equal opportunities
employer.



BRITISH OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY - DESIGNATE

Applications are invited from persons with
sound general administrative background and
experience in sport administration for the post
of Deputy General Secretary-Designate.

Further details and application form may be
obtained from:

The General Secretary,
British Olympic Association,
1 Wandsworth Plain,
London SW18 1EH.
Telephone 01-871 2677.

Closing date for applications 31st December
1987.

HEALTH CARE

Joint Committee Order of St John and the British Red Cross Society MAIS HOUSE Bexhill-on-Sea

This Residential Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen and their Widows and for
Retired Nurses in need of care is being developed into a residential home with
extra care nursing facilities. There are 26 places including a purpose-built wing of
eight rooms and further extension is planned. We are, therefore, seeking a

RESIDENTIAL EN

Salary £8,208 pa

Experience with the elderly and a real interest in a modern approach to their
health and care is desirable and experience in nursing would be an advantage.

Informal visits welcome, telephone 0424 215871.

Application forms may be obtained from: The Director, Ex-Servicemen
War Disabled Help and Homes Department, Joint Committee
Order of St John and British Red Cross Society, 6 Grosvenor
Crescent, London SW1X 7EH. Tel: 01-235 7131.

COLVILLE CLINIC PRIVATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL RMNs

* Bored with institutional care?
* Frustrated by a lack of personal commitment ebbing away?
* Fed your professional and personal commitment ebbing away?

THEN WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU IN OUR TEAM!

Whether you are newly qualified, or have several years' experience we are looking for
innovative nurses with high levels of commitment and skills who wish to expand their
therapeutic horizons.

Successful applicants will be able to work as team members, creating a relaxed and
friendly atmosphere whilst adhering to high professional standards.

Previous counselling and group work experience is welcomed, but not essential. Full in-
service counselling training is provided.

For application forms and informal enquiries contact: Graham Taylor,
Director of Nursing, Colville Clinic, Gange Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex
BN21 4HE. (5121)

SOUTHEAST HEALTH AUTHORITY Southend Hospital Orthopaedic Hospital STAFF NURSES

We need Staff Nurses for the Orthopaedic Unit both on Night Duty and
Day Duty. Primary Nursing is being implemented.

Hours: 37 1/2 per week, to include shift system and weekends.

If you are interested and would like more information than contact: Unit
Personnel Department, Southend Hospital, Priory Road, Southend,
Essex SSO 0RT. Tel: Southend (0702) 345711 ext 2619 (24-hour
answerphone in operation). (H9036)A

MID SURREY HEALTH AUTHORITY MANAGER ADULT TRAINING CENTRE

Applications are invited from persons with relevant
qualifications and experience, including experience of
working with people with a mental handicap, for the
post of Manager of the Adult Training Centre based at
the Manor Hospital, Epsom. This is a challenging post
involving management of 16 staff in the provision of
services ranging from social training of people with
severe mental handicap to the industrial therapy work-
shop for more able people. The post holder would be
expected to be a member of the multi-disciplinary
Training Team, and work closely with other professions
to ensure good practice and services development.

Salary: £9,517 - £11,485 including London weighting
(according to experience).

For further information and informal visits, please
contact Mrs. Vicky Hobbs, Director of Training (Epsom
26291 Ext. 254). For application forms and job
description contact the Personnel Department, Manor
Hospital (Epsom 26291 Ext. 231).

1st January, 1988 closing date (TT 23.12).

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS



MASS RAPID TRANSIT CORPORATION SINGAPORE

The MRT Corporation is a Statutory Board commissioned to build,
maintain and operate the mass transit railway system in Singapore.
The system covering 67 km, is being built with the help of consultants
and contractors at an estimated cost of \$5500 million over a period of 7 years.
Construction commenced in 1985. The first stage of the system
commenced service in November this year. The Corporation
now seeks applications for the position of:

SENIOR ELECTRONICS/SYSTEMS ENGINEER
GROSS SALARY RANGE: \$655,900 - \$881,600 p.a.

The ideal candidate should possess a degree in Electronics/Systems Engineering or related
discipline and have at least 5 years' experience, preferably in the design, development and
implementation of complex systems, ideally that which involve technical interfacing of sub-systems
supplied by a number of Contractors. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in
automatic-based fare collection and/or access control systems.

The successful candidate will join a small team based in Singapore and engaged to the
development and implementation of an integrated fare system for buses and the MRT. The work will
involve technical liaison with and management of Contractors engaged in the provision of state-of-the-
art bus ticketing equipment, and in associated enhancements to the MRT Automatic Fare Collection
(AFC) system, to achieve compatibility.

To satisfactorily perform these functions, the successful candidate shall be expected to quickly
acquire a detailed understanding of the design features and capabilities of the existing MRT AFC
system and bus ticketing equipment. He/She shall also be required to fully appreciate the objectives of
the integrated fare system, the system philosophy developed to facilitate implementation of the system,
necessary enhancements to bus and rail ticketing equipment to facilitate implementation of the system.

In addition to salary quoted above, the remuneration package also includes lump sum gratuity at
25% of last drawn salary for each completed month of service on satisfactory completion of contract,
subsidised medical and dental benefits, housing and children's education allowance and annual
vacation leave.

The above appointment will be for a contract of 2 or 3 years (renegotiable). Salary on entry will
depend on qualifications and experience.

MASS RAPID TRANSIT CORPORATION

Interested applicants should write by 13 January 1988 giving comprehensive details of
qualifications, experience, age, salary, career history, contact address and telephone number together
with a recent photograph to:

The Manager
Personnel & Administration Department
Mass Rapid Transit Corporation
25A Peterson Road
Singapore 0223

Correct Exchange Rate: £1: S\$3.7
The exchange rate is approximate and given for salary comparison purposes only.

TELEPHONE SALES EXECUTIVES

are required for

THE TIMES THE SUNDAYTIMES

Are you bright, dynamic, hardworking, enthusiastic and determined?

If so, you could be just who we are looking for.

Our Classified department is so successful that, during the last 18 months, we have
more than doubled the amount of classified advertising we carry in our titles, and
we're not going to stop there!

Due to promotions within the department, we are now looking for energetic
salespeople to join our team.

You should be aged between 20 and 30, well educated, smart, with some
commercial experience and must type at least 35 wpm.

We will give you fully comprehensive training, a starting salary of £9,000 pa
(reviewed after 3 months) and the opportunity to earn at least £3,000 pa bonus.
Free Medical Insurance and generous holiday entitlement, together with many
other benefits, complete the package.

Ring Sue Powell or Gill Sage during office hours next week, to tell us why you
should be part of our
winning team.

01-822 9343

HEALTH CARE

SOUTH MANCHESTER HEALTH AUTHORITY

Christie Hospital & Holt Radium Institute

SENIOR NURSE

Medical Oncology
Grade 8

This new post will provide excellent management experience
alongside clinical input, enabling the post-holder to
utilize their expertise in this specialist field of nursing.
The sphere of responsibility will encompass four wards,
which includes a new Adult Leukaemia Unit, a Children's
Unit, Day Ward and a very busy Medical Oncology
Ward. Applicants must have proven managerial experience,
in-depth knowledge of Oncology, and an interest in
teaching and research. This position is an advantage,
although not essential. For an informal visit, application
form and job description, please contact:

Mrs I.E. Scott, Director of Nursing Services,
Christie Hospital,

Withinslow Road, M20 9BX.

Tel: 061-445 8123 ext 355.

For further information, please contact: Mrs J. Brown,
Deputy Director of Nursing Services at the above address
on ext. 290.

Closing date for completed application forms: Friday,
January 8, 1988.

(MN5781)A.

THE ROYAL STAR & GARTER HOME

requires a:

NURSING OFFICER

Full Time - Senior Nurse 8

The person appointed will need to have proven
nursing ability and be interested and prepared to
be involved in the clinical aspect of caring as well
as administration.

The Home cares for 200 disabled and elderly ex-
servicemen taken in for permanence,
rehabilitation and to give carers in the
community a short break.

Good stamina and ability to accept a challenge is
essential. Salary and conditions as per Whitley
recommendations.

HEAD OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Group IV

Head Occupational Therapist required to run
new rehabilitation department catering for a wide
range of physical disabilities in ex-servicemen.
Excellent pay and fringe benefits including flat
accommodation.

Further details from: The Matron, The Royal
Star & Garter Home, Richmond Hill, Richmond,
Surrey TW10 6RR. Tel: 01 940 3314.

ADMINISTRATOR

Required for busy nursing home
in Battersea.

Considerable organisational skills
required. This is a most
challenging and satisfying
position within a leading health
care group.

For further details please contact
Geoff Daly

01 228 9434

MATRON

Matron (M/F) required for 17 bed Nursing Home in
mid-Sussex. Expanding responsibilities and good
working environment. Accommodation possible or
assistance with travel.

Mr W. Ball, Adelaide House,
13 Oathall Road, Haywards Heath
0444 441244.

LEGAL

ESSEX MAGISTRATES COURTS COMMITTEE DEPUTY CLERK TO THE JUSTICES

Billerica and Brentwood
Petty Sessions Divisions
Salary £17527 x 438(3) - £18843
plus £201 fringe allowance
(pay award pending)

There are Court Houses at Billerica and
Brentwood and the offices for the joint
PSD are at present in Billerica. A new
purpose built Court House complex is
shortly to be started in Basildon.

As well as being preferably a Solicitor or
Barrister, applicants for the position will
need good management skills including
an ability to deal with staff during a period
of change. A commitment to computer-
ised office systems is essential and a
working knowledge desirable.

Generous relocation expenses are
payable in approved cases and short-
term staff accommodation may be
available.

Further details and an application form
from Clerk of the Committee (Personnel
Section), County Hall, Chelmsford CM1
1LX. Telephone: 0245 492211 Ext:
24101.

Closing date for returned applications
8 January 1988. It is hoped to hold
interviews during late January or early
February.

TECHNICAL

RF Engineer/ Scientist Head of Section

The Laboratory operates a high brightness 2 GeV
electron storage ring as a source of synchrotron
radiation which is used for a wide range of research.
A vacancy exists for a Head of RF Section, to be
responsible for the operation and development of
systems used to power the storage ring and its
injection accelerators at frequencies up to 3 GHz and at
power levels up to 350 kW(CW).

Applications are invited from professional engineers or
scientists with experience of high power systems.
Experience of high vacuum techniques would be an
advantage. The successful candidate will have proven
managerial skills and the intellect to appreciate the
principles of electron acceleration.

The appointment will be at Grade 7 on a salary scale of
£15,030-£20,292 depending on qualifications and
experience. There is a non-contributory
superannuation scheme. Some assistance with house
relocation expenses may be available.

Further technical information may be ob-
tained from Mr V.P. Suller tel. 0925-603209.

Application forms may be obtained
from The Personnel Officer,
Daresbury Laboratory,
WARRINGTON, Cheshire WA4 4AD

(tel 0925-603467) to arrive not later
than 21st January 1988.

Please quote reference DL/31.

Daresbury
LABORATORY

YACHTING

US team in dispute over talk of cheating

From a Special Correspondent, Sydney

Racing in the AWA Southern Cross Cup was postponed yesterday while the Cruising Yacht Club, Australia (CYCA), in a move unprecedented in international offshore racing, negotiated to stop the United States team from withdrawing from the series.

Randy Short, the US team captain and owner-skipper of Sidewinder, incensed by remarks from the race committee chairman, Gordon Marshall, which Short believed accused him and his yacht of cheating, had the three-yacht US team agree to withdraw from the series before the start of the fourth race yesterday morning.

In his address to the protest committee against Sidewinder over a technical discrepancy on a sail measurement stamp, Marshall read a statement from the Royal Ocean Racing Club, the British organizer of the Admiral's Cup, setting out its philosophy on curbing cheating.

Short said he found it unbelievable that Marshall had told the protest committee he would make Sidewinder an example to stop other yachts from cheating.

He said the decision to penalize the yacht was ridiculous considering the sail measured correctly according to the rating certificate but had been incorrectly stamped. (A spot measurement of the yacht after race two found the sail showed a dimension of 7.8m for the upper girth of the mainsail; the yacht's rating certificate showed the measurement should have been 7.7m and a subsequent re-measurement confirmed that it was 7.7m).

Although the protest committee found Sidewinder had gained no advantage, it also found that Sidewinder had breached a rule ensuring that sails could be marked with their complied dimensions. It penalized Sidewinder 10 per cent of her placings. While the

rest of the 33 yachts put out to sea for the fourth race of the series yesterday morning, the three US yachts, Sidewinder, Jubilation and the chartered Australian yacht, Drake's Prayer, stayed in the marina.

Half an hour before the start, with the race committee having difficulty laying the course for the 24 nautical mile Olympic-style triangle because of pouring rain, restricted visibility, the CYCA Commodore, Arthur Cooley, radioed Marshall on the course and suggested the race be called off for the day.

Cooley explained in a brief statement: "In the interests of fairness and getting everyone out on the course and sailing the CYCA has decided to meet with all parties involved as soon as possible."

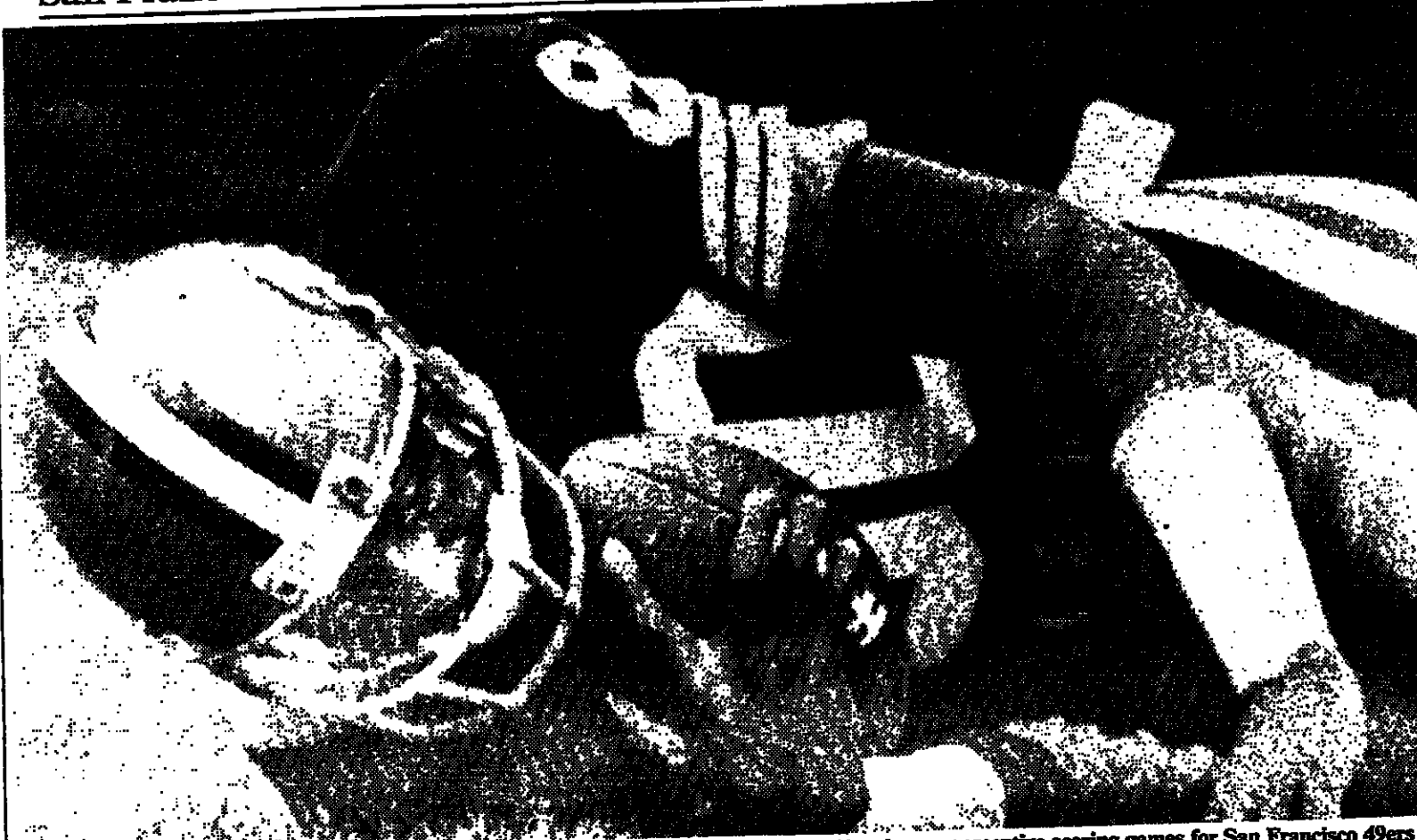
A meeting followed between the CYCA board and the US team with Short being advised by a Sydney lawyer. The CYCA later issued a statement which said it categorically affirmed no allegation of cheating was intended to apply to members of the US team by any address or remark of any officer of the club at the protest meeting.

The statement added: "The club apologizes to members of the United States team for any damage that may have arisen and regrets any injury, hurt or humiliation that has occurred to the reputation of any of the team members."

The fourth race is to be sailed today. Not all the sailors who put to sea in the rain were pleased with the result. Some said they would protest to the race committee for extending the series a day when the sailing instructions did not allow for re-sails.

Short said he would appeal against the decision of the protest committee to penalize his yacht although he said he would not be taking legal action against the club or Marshall as he had suggested earlier.

San Francisco 49ers receiver re-writes scoring books in American football



Going with the grain: Rice takes the NFL season touchdown record to 20 in his dazzling dozen consecutive scoring games for San Francisco 49ers

Touchdown tearaway takes the record

Jerry Rice ushered in a brave new world for receivers as he broke two NFL records with three touchdowns, his twelfth successive scoring game, and took the season mark to 20, two past Mark Clayton's best in 1984 for Miami Dolphins.

While Rice and Steve Young, the quarter-back, ensured San Francisco 49ers, the Super Bowl favourites, routed Atlanta Falcons 35-7, Dan Marino also found Mark Duper for a third touchdown to keep alive Miami Dolphins' hopes of reaching the play-offs by beating the Washington Redskins 23-21.

If Rice's scoring streak to

overtake Elroy Hirsch, of the Los Angeles Rams (50-51), and Buddy Dial, of the Pittsburgh Steelers (49-60), makes him the most exciting receiver in NFL history, there was also a reminder of Walter Payton's skills. In his final regular-season game at Soldier Field, Payton ran 17 times for 79 yards and two touchdowns, but his farewell was spoiled by Brian Bosworth, the rookie sensation, who recovered two fumbles and nearly returned one of them for a touchdown as the Seattle Seahawks beat Chicago Bears 34-21 and now need only to beat the struggling Kansas City Chiefs to secure a wild card spot.

Besides Rice scoring his fourth triple touchdown in five games, the San Francisco crowd were also brought to their feet when Sylvester Stamps, of the Falcons, and Cribbs, of the 49ers, scored with consecutive kick-off returns, only the third time in the NFL.

RESULTS: New England Patriots 13, Buffalo Bills 7; Minnesota Vikings 17, Detroit Lions 14; New Orleans Saints 41, Cincinnati Bengals 24; Seattle Seahawks 34, Chicago Bears 21; Houston Oilers 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 18; Philadelphia Eagles 38, New York Jets 27; Cleveland Browns 24, Los Angeles Raiders 17; Indianapolis Colts 20, San Diego Chargers 7; San Francisco 49ers 35, Atlanta Falcons 7; St. Louis Cardinals 31, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 14; Miami Dolphins 23, Washington Redskins 21.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

Anglo Scottish Trophy

First leg

Coverly v St Mirren

Fine Fare Scottish League

Premier division

Falkirk v Celtic

CENTRAL LEAGUE (7.00): First division: Manchester United v Bradford. Second division: York v Darlington.

SUNDAY MIRROR COMBINATION: Norwich v Portsmouth; Tottenham v Crystal Palace (2.00).

FA TROPHY: First round replay: Barrow v Burton; Blyth v Bromsgrove Rovers.

Kidderminster, Kettering v Aylesbury; Marnley v Nuneaton; Stafford v Caernarfon; Walsworth v Barnby; Weymouth v Harrow.

GM ACCEPTANCE CUP: Second round replay: Bromley v Welling.

WALSLEY OPEN LEAGUE: AC Delco Cup: First round replay: Staines v Kingsbury. First division: Billerica v

Wolverton (7.45); Hampton v Brentford. Second division: Barrow v Luton; Luton v Wigan.

ESSEX SENIOR CUP: Second round: Leyton Orient v Barking.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SENIOR CUP: Second round: Weltonborough v S and L Corby.

SURREY SENIOR CUP: Fifth qualifying round replay: Egham v Chertsey.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: World invitation club championship (at Crystal Palace). Carlsberg League (8.00): Sunderland v Portsmouth; Solent v Leicester.

SPORT ON TV

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Action from the American National Football League. Ch 11.45 p.m.

BOWLS: Jack High: Greater BBC2 5.30 p.m.

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SPORT ON TV

League trying to brew up some centennial spirit

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Representatives of the Football League believe that the party to celebrate the centenary, which has so far been a conspicuous and embarrassing failure, could still be a success. Tomorrow they will make a topical appeal to club chairmen and ask for their co-operation, which they feel has not been forthcoming.

Players were not readily released, for instance, for the game against the Rest of the World last August. The leading clubs are also known to be less than enthusiastic about the final event on the programme, a competition next August involving the top eight clubs in the country.

Rather than willingly take part in the historic celebrations, the clubs are, inexcusably, more interested in their own greed and in the financial incentives that will be on offer. With a typically narrow-minded attitude, they point out that they could make more money by arranging friendly fixtures on foreign fields.

Bryan Butler, acting as the spokesman for the organizing committee, yesterday admitted that "we have fallen between two stools. We

wanted to mark 100 years of football and to make some money. Now we must change that philosophy. People should bring along their party hats and their funny noses."

A knock-out tournament to be staged at Wembley during the official birthday of the League on April 16 and 17 is the only centrepiece that is left. Unless the clubs treat it with respect, English football will unforgivably have thrown away the most obvious opportunity to ingratiate itself with the public.

The tournament, embracing the leading clubs in each of the four divisions, judged over a period of four months starting from November, will cost the committee £700,000. Trevor Phillips, the League's marketing director, conceded: "There is no way that it will not cost us money. The main objective is to fill the stadium."

Graham Kelly, the League's secretary, confirmed that the weekend programme will be postponed "to make way for a real celebration". As well as receiving £15,000 for qualifying for the tournament, the winners will collect a prize of £60,000. The promise of such

a golden carrot should satisfy the distasteful avarice of the clubs.

Yet the organizing committee has paid the penalty for agreeing to the demands of Maradona. As Phillips said: "How can you ask the top people in football and show business to perform for insignificant fees, or even for nothing, when an Argentine was paid \$150,000 (£82,000) for playing at Wembley for 90 minutes?"

Elton John was to have performed at a gala concert at the Albert Hall with Rod Stewart on February 16. Both of them have withdrawn, which Butler stated was "a major disappointment", and the stage is now to be taken by Elkie Brooks, Rick Wakeman and The Tremeloes.

Phillips added that four nights of rock music, scheduled for the Wembley Arena in the middle of April, "have not a lot to do with football". Yet, if they generate enough money for the committee to be able to reduce the admission prices for "the birthday festival", they will have been worthwhile.

Evans says sorry to England

Alan Evans, the secretary of the Welsh FA, has apologized to Mike England, the manager of Wales, after calling him "a clot" at a non-league club's dinner.

But Evans, who admitted yesterday that he had been "unprofessional", still faces an official reprimand by the council of the FA of Wales for his off-the-cuff jokes about England.

In a public demonstration of the rift between England and some members of the Welsh FA, he is alleged to have claimed that England won "the Bird's Custard award for the thickest manager of the year" and the Danish Dairy Board's award as "clot of the year".

Ivor Pursey, president of the Welsh FA, said: "The matter is certainly to be discussed by the council. I shall certainly be pursuing it personally. The secretary should be reprimanded the same as I would expect if I made derogatory remarks."

Evans insisted yesterday that his comments, at the dinner of non-league AFC Cardiff a fortnight ago, were taken out of context, although he has apologized to England.

"I thought I would just try to break the ice with a joke," he said. "I realised immediately that I had left good taste and the truth behind, searching for popularity."

John receives new Watford offers

Two potential new buyers of Watford have already come forward following Robert Maxwell's decision to pull out of the £2 million deal. However, Elton John, the Watford chairman, is in no hurry to rush through an alternative sale after the disastrous effects of his attempted link-up with the publishing magnate.

John has instructed his soccer brokers, Hanover Druce Football League Consultancy, to research thoroughly the background of any would-be purchasers. He intends to ensure that there are no further disputes with the Football League when he finally relinquishes his seat at the head of the Watford board.

Paul White, the Hanover Druce director in charge of the Watford commission, said yesterday: "We're taking it very coolly now. We're going to let the matter rest for a little while. Yesterday's decision could not have come at a worse time, with Christmas just a few days away."

"With the Football League meeting scheduled for January

19, it is probably a good idea to put everything on the back-burner for a while. After everything that has happened in the last 48 hours, we are very interested in seeing what happens at that meeting."

However, there is already mounting interest in the availability of John's 92% stake in the club, confirmed by White who said: "We have already had two people contact us."

He would not reveal their identities but added: "While we take every enquiry at face value, we then face a lot of checking up on their background and financial position before we get down to serious talks."

Many Watford supporters hoped that John's decision to call off the Maxwell deal indicated a change of heart by the singer. However, White insisted that he is as determined as ever to find someone else to inject new drive into the club. "His prime concern is Watford and what is best for the club," he said.

Spurs find a possible successor to Clemence

Tottenham Hotspur have ended their search for a possible replacement for Ray Clemence by signing Peter Guthrie, aged 25, the Weymouth goalkeeper. The

£100,000 transfer equals the record fee paid for a non-league player, which was also for a goalkeeper, Lee Butler, who joined Aston Villa from Lincoln City.

Guthrie had the option of joining his home town club Newcastle United - who also bid £100,000 - but he opted for the three and a half year contract offered by Spurs. He will be released by Weymouth on December 29.

In his 18 Conference games since joining Weymouth from Blythe Spartans on a free transfer at the start of the season, Guthrie has only conceded six goals. He has kept 17 clean sheets all round.

He said: "I never thought that after only five months with Weymouth I would be on my way to one of the top clubs in the country for such a fabulous fee. It's a marvellous Christmas present."

Spinks is beaten
San Antonio, Texas (AP) - Ladislav Mijangos, of Mexico, scored a 10-round split decision on Sunday night over former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks, who now has lost three of six fights this year. Mijangos advanced on Spinks from the first bell landing solid punches to the body and head.

Spinks, aged 35, could muster only spurts of activity as Mijangos, aged 30, moved effectively and counter-punched his way out of trouble. Ten years ago, Spinks beat Muhammad Ali for the World Boxing Council's heavyweight title.

US bound
England's Women's Lacrosse Association has selected a squad of 16 for its Easter three-Test tour of the United States with hopes of repeating their victory over the visiting Americans in 1984.

Second award
Oslo (AFP) - Ingrid Kristiansen, the world 10,000m champion, has been elected Norway's sports personality of the year for the second successive year.



Return of the native: Geoff Boycott at Headingley yesterday, after a year's absence, to open a youth cricket competition

Boycott is back on the boil

By Martin Searby

Geoff Boycott returned to Yorkshire County Cricket Club yesterday for the first time in more than 12 months since his dismissal and adopted a stance that was a cross between General MacArthur and Eva Peron.

He promised to return to committee duties at the start of next season and said he had always been with the county in spirit despite his absence from the county's matches and corridors of power.

Boycott, aged 47, was in unimpeachable form at the opening of a competition for 850 youngsters aged from 13 to 16 at the indoor cricket school he did so much to foster. He made it quite clear that those who thought he had turned his back on the county could expect further clashes with England's leading Test match run-getter.

"I have always spoken my mind," he said, "and I shall continue to do so. I was an employee of Yorkshire for all those years and I don't see why I shouldn't have taken a year off to publicise my message. I was always with the club in spirit and of course I was delighted that they won the Benson and Hedges Cup."

"I have made my position quite clear to the members in Wakefield. I still have a contribution to make to Yorkshire cricket and that is why I started paying my subs 15 years ago."

But the man who excites more emotion than any other cricketer in history said he had not batted since he was run out in his last match for Yorkshire at Scarborough.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into a Yorkshire committee room, "Boycott II" appears to be in the making.

Shakoor Rana is called before inquiry board

Shakoor Rana, the umpire involved in a confrontation with the England captain, Mike Gatting, in the second Test, was being interviewed yesterday by a two-man inquiry into the incident.

The inquiry began on Sunday, when Gatting was among those who gave their version of events. Two other England players, Capel and Athey, have also been heard.

Capel was the fielder moved by Gatting when the off-spinner, Hemmings, ran in to bowl, only to be stopped by Rana. Athey was near Gatting and Rana when the two had a heated exchange of words, and led the England captain away.

An inquiry committee member, Yawar Saeed, said: "We called the three players one by one and they were very friendly and cooperative." Salim Malik, who was batting when the incident occurred, is also to be interviewed.

The Pakistani cricket board will pass on the report to the TCCB and the International Cricket Conference.

Alan Smith, the TCCB chief executive, denies that the

Lamb considering TCCB job offer

Tim Lamb is still negotiating with the Test and County Cricket Board over an offer to become the board's first Director of Cricket (Ian Stafford writes). If he decides to join the TCCB, Lamb, the secretary of Middlesex, will concentrate on producing the first-class cricket list, checking playing conditions and covering the development of the sport in the counties.

The Director of Cricket is a new post, which will cover the present duties of Michael Gear, the Assistant Secretary (Cricket). Gear's long-term future is uncertain.

A £1,000-per-man bonus which is being paid to the England players is the price Lord's had to pay to quell a revolt among the players - and a possible early return home - during the umpiring controversy.

Smith says the bonuses, which were announced yesterday, are in recognition of the "adverse and difficult

circumstances" of the tour. The money will be paid in addition to the £5,000 each player will collect for his three-month trip to the sub-Continent.

"I am not happy about the construction put on the payment in some quarters," Smith said. "The players were not aware of it when I was out there earlier in this Test and would not have known about it until Friday."

"We have made it as a vote of confidence in the players and a way of thanking them for the way they have picked themselves up after the recent problems."

"The players certainly did not ask for it - it will come as something of a surprise, a pleasant surprise to them. In view of the sheer grind involved and the difficult circumstances, it just seemed to be appropriate."

However Smith, while expressing concern at the large number of Test and international matches being played, reiterated that the TCCB were not happy about dissent from players.

Indian dispute escalates

From Javed Akhtar, Bombay

board goes ahead with the notice.

According to the contract signed by all members of the Indian team with the board for the current series against West Indies, the players are banned from contributing articles to newspapers. In an obvious violation of the contract, Vengsarkar has been writing signed articles syndicated by DEV Features, run by his team-mate and former captain, Kapil Dev.

The board secretary, Ranbir Singh, announced on Sunday

that the notice would be served on Vengsarkar. In accordance with the conditions in his contract, Vengsarkar faces a fine of Rs15,000 (about £750) for the first violation, Rs30,000 for the second, and could be debared from playing for the country for the third.

When contacted, Sriraman refused to comment on the issue, but said the memorandum would be placed before the special working committee meeting of the board at Madras today.

East Germans point to end of Games boycotts

Berlin (AFP) - East Germany, one of the world's biggest sporting powers, joined Hungary as the second Eastern bloc country to announce it would go to the Seoul Olympic Games in September.

Hours after the Hungarian announcement, the East German Olympic committee said it hoped the Games would contribute to the unity of the Olympic movement, to understanding between people and to safeguarding world peace, although it still supported the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) attempts to negotiate a larger share of the Games for North Korea.

The initiatives from Hungary and East Germany dispels fears of a boycott over North Korea's demands to jointly host the Olympics. Their acceptance is expected to be followed by Poland, while the rest of the Eastern bloc country NOCs have meetings scheduled early in the new year.

More than 100 countries from the 167 invitations sent out by the IOC in September have already accepted, but the

double announcement breaks the Eastern bloc reluctance to commit itself before the January 17 deadline.

Romania was the only Eastern bloc country to break ranks when the Soviet Union boycotted the 1984 Los Angeles Games following the United States-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games.

Hungary's NOC voted unanimously to go to Seoul and will send about 300 athletes and officials. Only five Hungarians are going to the winter Games in Calgary in February, while the East Germans, led by their powerful athletes and swimmers, are strong favourites for medals in numerous sports.

With the threat of an Eastern bloc boycott now receding to end the cycle stretching back to Munich in 1972, Cuba, a boxing stronghold, and Ethiopia, whose reservoir of long distance runners seems to have temporarily dried up, appear to be the only doubtful entries for Seoul.

END COLUMN

Plight of Reed has NTF on go

By Phil McLennan

The case of Christopher Reed, the stable lad who lost a leg following a gallops accident earlier this year, has prompted the racing authorities to introduce improved insurance for Britain's 6,000 stable workers.

Reed's plight, highlighted by *The Times* in September, has led the National Trainers' Federation (NTF), in conjunction with the Levy Board, to ask brokers for a scheme which would provide disabled workers with a capital sum.

Richard Mackness, chief executive of the NTF, said yesterday: "Moves were already underway to provide lump sum injury benefit before the Reed case brought the situation into public focus. But this has certainly accelerated our actions."

"We are taking advice from the Levy Board's brokers and when we have heard from them we will have to examine the best way to fund the scheme. Premiums are likely to be high but we want to introduce a fair top limit."

"We will also be in touch with the Jockey Club and other organisations who operate existing schemes of this sort. We hope to make a positive announcement early in the new year."

At present, disabled stable lads have their DHSS payments topped up by the Levy Board to the level of their normal working wage for two years. Thereafter, they receive a government disability pension dependent on the extent of their handicap. However, they do not receive a lump sum at any stage. When the new plan is introduced a maximum benefit will be established for total disability with percentage payments made for lesser injuries.

Bill Adams, secretary of the Stable Lads' Association (SLA), who has championed Reed's cause, is delighted that



Reed: will miss out the new scheme is imminent but is not getting carried away until the details have been unveiled.

"We set the ball rolling with the Reed story and the NTF have since taken up the running. They will be calling us back in for further talks when they have something definite," Adams said.

"We naturally hope it meets our requirements but if it doesn't we may have to ask trainers and stable staff to bring the guaranteed benefits up to a satisfactory level. If all stable staff were to contribute 50p a week and trainers were to match that, we could raise in excess of £250,000 a year."

Adams had disappointing news of the Chris Reed Appeal which has only realised about £3,000 to date and will be closed at the end of next month. "The stable lads have been fantastic and one or two trainers have made contributions, but the response of the racing industry in general has been poor. All trainers were informed about the appeal months ago in our newsletter. Bookmakers, for example, must have seen the story in *The Times* and the television programmes but only the Tote have contributed to the appeal. They gave £250."

Race nights and discos organised by stable staff at East Hitley, Newmarket and Lambourn raised £600, £1,000 and £412 respectively, accounting for the bulk of the £3,000.

Jimmy Scott, Michael Stone's travelling head lad, immediately gave the £100 he won as a result of Milligram's Ascot victory in September to the appeal, while Tim Forster and Jimmy Etherington are among the handful of trainers to have made donations.

The irony of the latest development is that, whatever the terms of the scheme, Reed himself cannot benefit from it. "I'm afraid Chris will not get anything," Adams said. "He has been used as a platform for our campaign but as there was no policy in operation at the time of his accident, he will dip out."

Donations to the Chris Reed Appeal should be sent to: Chris Reed Appeal, c/o Stable Lads' Association, 4 Danmore Way, Midway, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs, DE11 7LA.

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